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September 1976 \$1.00

**WRESTLER**

# **THE Wrestler**

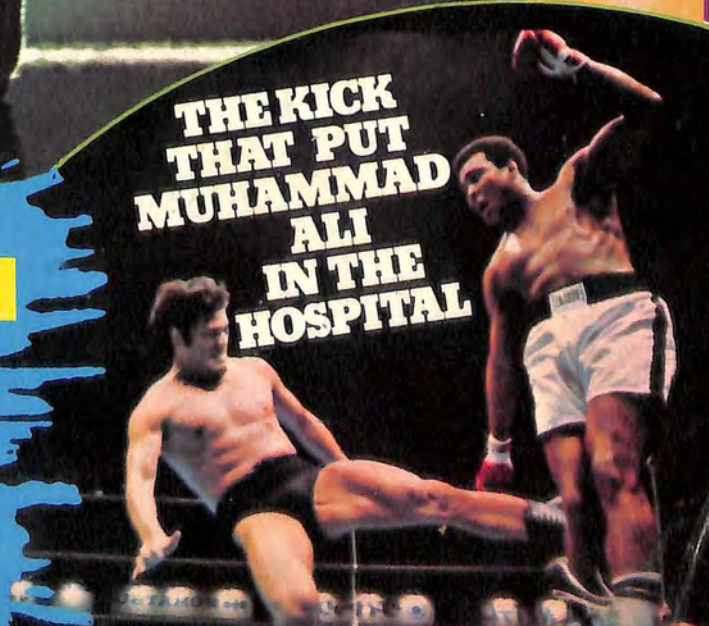
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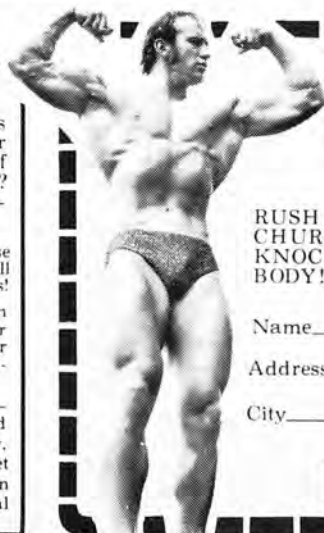
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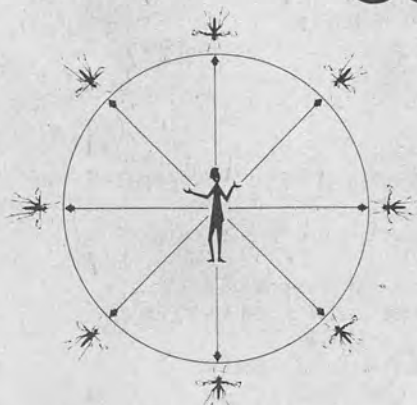
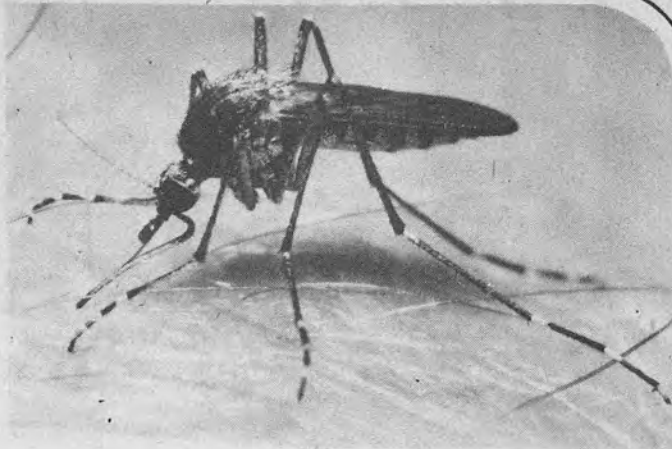
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# Wrestler<sup>THE</sup>

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YOSHIZAWA & BILL APTER

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# OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

## WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

CHAMPION: BRUNO SAMMARTINO

- 1—STAN HANSEN
- 2—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
- 3—BRUISER BRODY
- 4—IVAN PUTSKI
- 5—IVAN KOLOFF
- 6—BOBO BRAZIL
- 7—DOUG GILBERT
- 8—ERNIE LADD
- 9—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 10—BILLY WHITE WOLF

## AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKLE

- 1—VERNE GAGNE
- 2—PAMPERO FIRPO
- 3—JOE LEDUC
- 4—LARRY HENNIG
- 5—BOBBY DUNCUM
- 6—BLACKJACK LANZA
- 7—BARON VON RASCHKE
- 8—MAD DOG VACHON
- 9—CHRIS TAYLOR
- 10—GREG GAGNE

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—BRUNO SAMMARTINO
- 2—MIL MASCARAS
- 3—IVAN PUTSKI
- 4—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 5—HAYSTACKS CALHOUN
- 6—MR. WRESTLING II
- 7—MIGHTY IGOR
- 8—JACK BRISCO
- 9—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 10—BRUISER

## NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

CHAMPION: TERRY FUNK

- 1—JACK BRISCO
- 2—DUSTY RHODES
- 3—BILLY ROBINSON
- 4—HARLEY RACE
- 5—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
- 6—PAUL JONES
- 7—FRITZ VON ERICH
- 8—JERRY LAWLER
- 9—DORY FUNK JR.
- 10—MR. FUGI

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE MASKED EXECUTIONERS
- 2—BRUISER & CRUSHER
- 3—TIM WOODS & DINO BRAVO
- 4—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS
- 5—BOB ORTON JR. & BOB ORTON SR.
- 6—THE MONGOLS
- 7—MIKE & EDDIE GRAHAM
- 8—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW & BILLY WHITE WOLF
- 9—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
- 10—THE SCORPION & DON GREENE

## MOST HATED

- 1—THE SHEIK
- 2—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
- 3—BULLDOG BROWER
- 4—THE SPOILER
- 5—BARON VON RASCHKE
- 6—MONGOLIAN STOMPER
- 7—ERNIE LADD
- 8—STAN HANSEN
- 9—RAY STEVENS
- 10—IVAN KOLOFF



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### COURSE #3

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# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING, BABY!

By Bill Apter

**A**LL OUT WAR has erupted between managers Buddy Colt and Rock Hunter. The two, once good friends, exchanged heated remarks on a television interview and then began exchanging fists!

"Buddy Colt is runnin' off at the mouth sayin' he's a better manager than me!" charges Hunter. "Man, he's full of bull and he knows it. I'm a better manager than he is and I am a better wrestler than he could have ever hoped to be."

Colt, hoping to make a comeback (he's been sidelined with a leg injury suffered in an air disaster) wants to square off against Hunter.

"Rock Hunter is jealous of my success!" claims Colt. "He tried to buy my wrestlers from me with lucrative offers. He went right to them and not to me. What the hell kind of manager would deal like that? A lousy one, that's what kind!"

Colt hopes that King Curtis, one of his men, who told Hunter to "go to hell" when approached by him, can help him finish off Hunter and proteges The Assassin, Pak Song and Missouri Mauler. Colt also hopes to enlist the aid of Jack Brisco, Dusty Rhodes and The Grahams!

Now that The Executioners have the World Wide Wrestling Federation tag team belts, Captain Lou Albano is not all too sure he wants to bring The Valiant Brothers back to the area at this time.

"They're both great teams," Albano said. "I made them great. I don't want any friction in my camp. Bringing the Valiant brothers back now could create just this. They'd want the tag team title and I wouldn't want my teams goin' at each other, daddy!"

**Feuds That Won't Die Dept.**—Jerry Lawler and Plowboy Frazier tearin' each other to shreds in Tennessee... The Sheik and Bobo Brazil continuing their multi-year feud in Michigan... Superstar Graham and Ivan Putski's



*Above: Lou Albano is ready to settle a score with a man he despises, Chief Jay Strongbow. Right: An all out war is going on between manager Buddy Colt and former friend, Rock Hunter.*

WWWF battles turning into battle royals as friends of each rush into the ring to help either Superstar or Ivan... Mighty Igor and Bulldog Brower both losing more blood at each other's hands... Chief Jay Strongbow back in the east once again ready to tear apart Lou Albano's stable.

Chavo Guerrero burning mad that Crusher Verdu and advisor Roddy Piper doubleteam him when he's in combat in a single match against one of the pair.

"I've asked for a cage match against each of them," Guerrero said. "This way the guy I'm *not* wrestling can't run in and help out." Chavo, don't believe that for one minute. These two are bound to have some tricks up their sleeves. They'll *find* a way to interfere!

Dusty Rhodes says, "Ric Flair is the most trouble makin' punk I've ever



seen. He'd sell his soul to the devil just to try and make a deal to cripple me. Well partners, whatever he does won't work. I'll finish that punk's career and make him wish he'd never come up against me!"

"Rhodes is a jealous crybaby!" Flair  
(Continued on page 50)





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# YOUR LETTERS



## WHAT KIND OF CHAMPION?

Recently we have seen printed in your fine magazine a number of letters in praise of Dory Jr. and Terry Funk. This, in our opinion, is the most ridiculous, insane, and sickening thing we have seen in quite a while. Perhaps the most disgusting of the foul lot was the letter referring to Terry Funk as "a great and honorable world champion."

We ask you, what kind of champion has to place a \$20,000 bounty on a man (Dusty Rhodes) in order to keep his title? What kind of champion must ally himself with such a lowly lot as Rock Hunter, the Missouri Mauler, the Assassin, and Pak Song? What kind of champion must hire men to do what he himself is unable to do. It is the kind of champion Terry Funk has become—desperate!

Just a short time ago, we witnessed one of the truly great matches in Florida—a world heavyweight championship match in which Rhodes would finally have a fair chance at Funk's title. The match was the best we have ever seen, and Funk was definitely desperate. He resorted to such things as trying to hit Rhodes with the bell, and knocking the referee unconscious so he could not be counted out. This tactic cost Dusty the championship.

But to give the devil his due, Terry Funk is still the world's wrestling champion—for now. However, it seems obvious it is only a matter of time—and the shorter the better—before Dusty has an even break and takes Terry's title. This is assuming, of course, Jack Brisco or Tim Woods or one of the other truly great wrestlers doesn't get to Funk first. Either way, it is only a matter of time before Terry Funk loses the NWA crown.

MATTHEW LANDAU  
STEVE GILBEY  
Satellite Beach, Fla.

## HANSEN THE GREATEST

After seeing Stan Hansen wrestle, I think he is the greatest. The man has the strength and power to handle anyone. I think Stan Hansen deserves the WWWF belt.



*Terry Funk appears to be king of all he surveys. However, one fan dares Terry to risk his title against Dick Slater.*

They call Bruno Sammartino the living legend, and they say no one can defeat him. Well, Stan Hansen did! Hansen showed him and everyone who is the true champion. He put Sammartino in the hospital and showed Ivan Putski who was better. I hope Bruno will lose the belt to Stan—he has had

it too long and it is time a great wrestler beat him.

Sammartino is a good wrestler, but Hansen is the best. Watch out, Bruno. The lariat is coming.

CHRISTINE BAMBAUER  
Ridgewood, N.Y.

## A CHALLENGE TO FUNK

An open letter to Terry Funk:

I challenge you to defend your NWA title in an no-disqualification, no time limit championship match against Dick Slater. Many times I have heard people comparing Slater to you. Well, as far as I'm concerned, Dick Slater is a much better man. If you wish to prove you are the real champion, defend the title against Slater—or give him the belt.

MARTY SHIRLEY  
Brandon, Fla.

## WHY IS IT FUNNY?

I read the article, "A Failure Paul Jones Can Never Avenge" (THE WRESTLER/June 1976), and started to laugh. I know it wasn't written to be funny, but it was funny.

Why? Because you have one wild Texas cowboy named Blackjack Mulligan beat Paul Jones.

As far as all the referees getting together to have a conference about Blackjack Mulligan before the match, it is nice to know he is appreciated.

JANE POLSTON  
Waco, Tex.

## VERNE THE BEST

I think the AWA should fine Nick Bockwinkle for his boast about not being worried about Verne Gagne anymore ("Gagne's No Threat to Me Anymore") [THE WRESTLER/June 1976].

If Mr. Bockwinkle would just open his eyes and look at the ratings, he would see Verne is still his number one  
(Continued on page 52)



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• "In just 6 weeks, I put 2" on my arms, 3" on my chest, 2" on my thighs, and gained 22 lbs." —N.D.

• "In complete honesty, I think it is a great exercise program . . . the best one on the market!!!!" —Dave Fuss, IL.

• "You just aren't another rip-off company. You back what you say." —T Roeklein, WI.

• "I've averaged from 2-3" on my legs, arms, and chest — I'm glad that I did invest the money." —Richard Oxer, MT.

• "Enclosed is my money order (for a new Powerex). I know how good it is. I had one and I lost it. I am in several sports and cannot win without Powerex. It is the greatest!" —G Scott, Canada.

• "Arms increased 2 1/2", chest 3", decreased waist 2", and gained 20 lbs. — look and feel a lot better!" —Joseph Moreno, CA.

• "I used to be a singles man — this season I was a home run hitter, and I credit Powerex with this." —T J, AL.

• "The results are just FANTASTIC!" —Richard Lynn, MN.

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# CORRESPONDENTS Reports



*The victim of two chain-wielding wrestlers, a bloody Big Bad John slumps to the canvas. He was knocked senseless when his foe, Phil Hickerson, was joined by Dennis Condry, armed with a chain. The two men then proceeded to lash John mercilessly with the steel whip, tearing the flesh from his forehead and badly wounding him.*

## ALABAMA ACTION By Tim Searcy

**T**HE MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM in Birmingham was completely filled with fans for one of the most exciting matches ever held in Alabama. The Bicentennial Baby, Big Bad John, was matched against the self-proclaimed Bicentennial king,

Phil Hickerson.

Before the match, Hickerson bragged about how he was going to defeat Big Bad John, but when it came to the actual match, it was John tossing Phil all around the ring. Just when it appeared Hickerson was going to lose, Dennis Condry ran in with a chain, and together with Phil, John was bloodied. The referee declared the match a "no contest."



*Above: Tony Garea headlocks his helpless foe late in their match. Below: Bob Backlund found himself wrestling two opponents instead of one—and still managed to be victorious!*



## CALIFORNIA CHAOS By Mark Pimentel

Wrestling fans in Sacramento saw a bloody battle for the world tag team championship as titleholders Pat Patterson and Tony Garea faced challengers Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito.

It became a blood brawl, with all four wrestlers having cuts opened on their faces. The referee finally had to step in and stop the match, citing the amount of blood Mr. Saito had lost as the reason. Patterson and Garea retained their championship.

In other action, Pedro Morales was victorious over Don Muraco when Mufaco was disqualified . . . Alberto Madril stopped Masked Invader No. 2 . . . Jerry Monti and Rock Riddle wrestled to a 20 minute draw.

## FLORIDA REPORTS By T.G. Nathan

Everyone in West Palm Beach was amazed by the great display of wrestling witnessed in this beautiful





*Above: Stan Hansen, the Bounty Hunter, shows off the arm with which he delivers his feared Lariat before a recent wild encounter against Ivan Putski.*

Florida city. Some of the top stars in the NWA were out in force for this particular card.

The first match saw Grappler No. 2 defeat Hiro Matsuda. Things became a little wild in the second and third match. Steve Keirn was supposed to wrestle Bill Costello, but he found out he was going to have to battle two men—Costello and Jim Dalton. Bob Backlund found himself in the same situation in the third match, when he was just supposed to wrestle Dalton. Keirn and Backlund both won their matches.

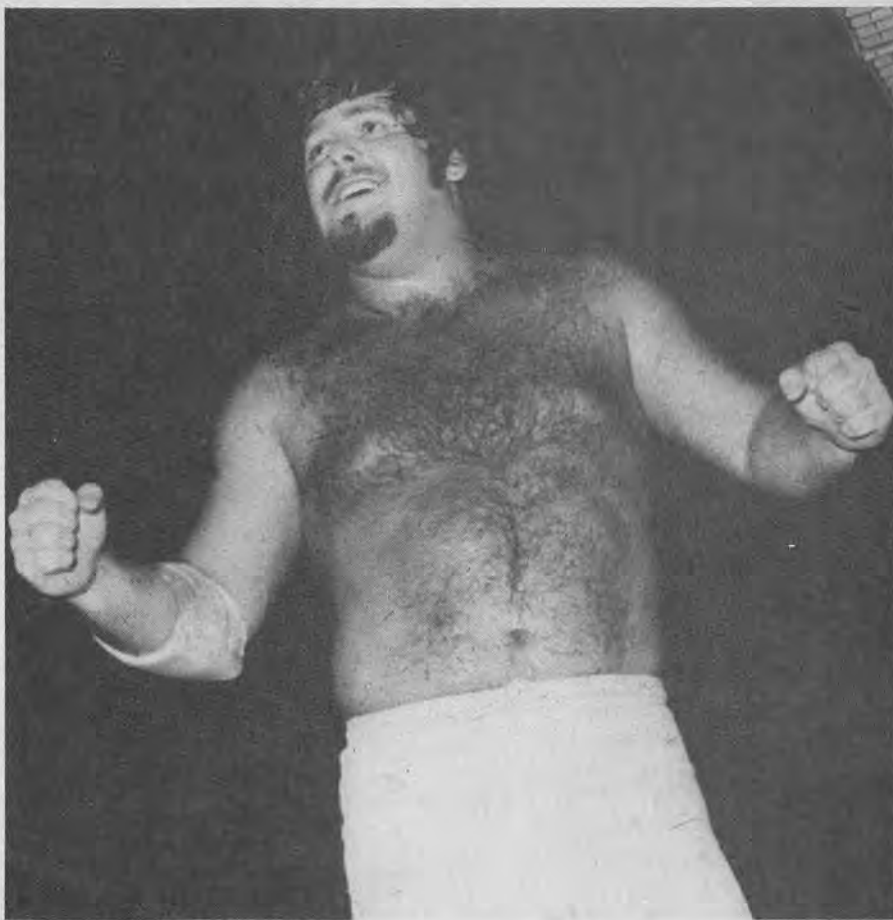
#### MAINE MAYHEM

By David Dupre

A capacity crowd filled the Lewiston, Maine, Armory to see the "Bounty Hunter," Stan Hansen, lock horns with Ivan Putski.

The match was a wild brawl, with control changing hands regularly. After 30 minutes of battling, Putski got Hansen into a corner. Just as Ivan tried to deliver a chop to Stan, Hansen moved and Ivan accidentally hit the referee. Then Hansen tried to elbow smash Ivan, but Putski moved away in time, and Hansen hit the referee. With the referee unconscious, both men were disqualified.

In other action, the team of Pat Barrett and Kevin Sullivan defeated the team of Crusher Blackwell and Man Mountain Mike . . . Jose Gonzales won easily over Rocky Tomayo . . . Tony Altimore emerged victorious in his match against Vincente Pamente.



*Above: Jerry Lawler prepares himself for combat in a wild six-man tag team bout. Below: Wahoo McDaniel failed to take the NWA belt from Terry Funk.*



#### BLUEGRASS BATTLES

By Jim Cornette

Fans flocked to see a "Battle of the Giants" at Louisville Gardens, when the main event was a six man tag team match. This battle of the titans pitted the team of Ernie Ladd, Plowboy Frazier and Jerry Lawler against the team of Tommy Rich, former pro football player Ron Mickolajczyk, and Andre the Giant.

It quickly became a wild battle. Andre was triple-teamed. Lawler did some serious damage to Tommy Rich. Andre battled back bravely against Ladd and Frazier, with a little help from Mickolajczyk. Finally the referee had to call it a "no contest."

#### NORTH CAROLINA NEWS

By Marvin Taylor Jr.

A world title was on the line in Asheville, North Carolina, as NWA champion Terry Funk defended his belt against Chief Wahoo McDaniel. The action was hot and heavy from the opening bell.

The match quickly progressed into a battle of punches and chops. But throughout this slugfest, each man was able to apply his favorite finishing maneuver. Funk used his famous spinning toe hold, but Wahoo escaped. The Chief executed two suplexes, but Terry was able to free himself. Finally, Funk got fed up and threw Wahoo over the ropes, thus retaining his title on a disqualification.

In other action, Ric Flair defeated the "American Dream," Dusty Rhodes, but it was discovered Flair had used a foreign object to gain the victory, so Rhodes was awarded the match. □

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Gagne her favorite.  
Likes good and bad  
guys. Anyone for PP's.



**MIKAELE AFOA (27)**  
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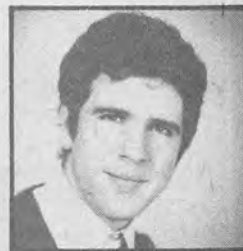
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23 Center Avenue  
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The Valiants his  
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bad guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



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Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Likes photography.  
Mike Graham her  
favorite. Likes good  
and bad guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



**WAYNE COOPER (28)**  
326 W. Pasadena Rd.  
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Von Erich his favorite.  
Likes good and bad guys.  
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**HIROKAZU OMORI (14)**  
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Kotoku, Tokyo 135, Japan  
Likes football. Mil  
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Route #1  
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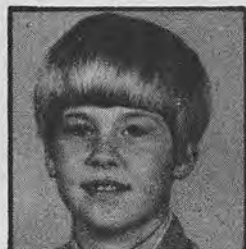
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5 Schenck Avenue  
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stamps. Bruno Sammar-  
tino his favorite.  
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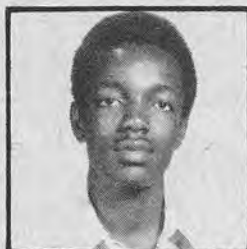
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Jimmy Snuka her  
favorite. Likes  
good and bad guys.  
Anyone for PP's.



**BOBBY JONES (14)**  
9507 Huron Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23229  
Likes sports. Mil  
Mascaras his  
favorite. Likes  
good and bad guys.  
Girls for pen pals.



**SEDRICK MALCOLM (17)**  
618 Bergen Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11238  
Enjoys soccer. Bruno  
Sammartino his  
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good guys. Girls  
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**ILYS SCHECK (16)**  
48-3745 Lakeshore  
Kelowna, CANADA  
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Rt. 1 Box 352-A  
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Enjoys sports. Rufus  
Jones his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
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Box 69  
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Collects films.  
Ivan Putski his  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Girls  
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602 W. 190 Street  
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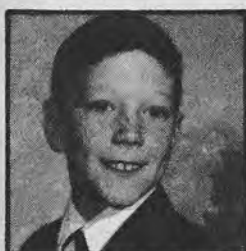
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20 Geissler Drive  
Shelton, CT 06484  
Lifts weights.  
Valiants his  
favorites. Likes  
bad guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



**DONALD SEBERA (10)**  
309 N. 5 Avenue  
Hopewell, VA 23860  
Likes football.  
Wahoo McDaniel his  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



**VICKY ENGLISH (11)**  
Rt. 3 Box 320  
Weaverville, NC 28787  
Enjoys baseball. Wahoo  
McDaniel her favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
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**JAMES KISSANE (10)**  
1459 Taylor Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10460  
Likes wrestling.  
Mil Mascaras his  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



**JEFF LURWICK (15)**  
654 Lawnton Terr.  
Holmes, PA 19043  
Enjoys swimming.  
Ivan Putski his  
favorite. Likes  
good and bad guys.  
Girls for pen pals.



**BIBI URBINA (15)**  
1075 University Ave.  
Bronx, NY 10452  
Enjoys baseball.  
Bruno Sammartino  
his favorite. Likes  
good and bad guys.  
Girls for pen pals.



**LISA URBINA (14)**  
1075 University Ave.  
Bronx, NY 10452  
Likes sewing. Spiros  
Arion her favorite.  
Likes bad guys.  
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**JOHN-VANN (21)**  
4211 Mobile Highway  
Pensacola, FL 32505  
Likes sports. Ken  
Lucas his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



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513 Ashland Drive  
Mebane, NC 27302  
Likes swimming.  
Dino Bravo his  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



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R.F.D. 2  
Farmington, ME 04938  
Likes swimming. Tony  
Garea her favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**TOMMY REUTER (12)**  
107-18 - 103 Avenue  
Ozone Park, NY 11417  
Likes baseball. Ivan  
Putski his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
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**JOEY RUSSO (14)**  
129 Jefferson Ave.  
Roslyn Hts., NY 11577  
Enjoys fishing. Mil  
Mascaras his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**LISA SAKIE (12)**  
224 Ohio Ave. Heights  
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# YOU ASKED US

Okay fans. You asked for it and here it is. Each month either **INSIDE WRESTLING** or **THE WRESTLER** will publish *your* column—"YOU ASKED US." Just jot down a question and the wrestler you'd like us to ask it to and send it to: **You Asked Us, THE WRESTLER, P.O. Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.** Questions will be answered only in this column.



*One reader asked if The Masked Executioners (above) were The Mongols. They aren't that team.*

**Q:** I think I know who the Masked Executioners are. They are none other than those maniacal Mongols. Ask Captain Lou Albano if I'm right.—Brian LeVay, Glen Rock, New Jersey

**A:** "Good guess!" exclaimed Albano. "But you're wrong. My champions are not the Mongols. They are not Superman and Clark Kent. They are not Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck either, daddy—Ha, ha, ha! They are fine athletes who wish to keep their identities secret. The Captain will not betray their wishes just for the sake of a fan!"

**Q:** Would Chavo Guerrero like to wrestle Ric Flair?—Joe Mayberry, Madison Heights, Virginia

**A:** "I've heard a lot about Flair and his rulebreaking style," young Chavo said. "Sure I'd like to wrestle him. I'll end his reign of terror."

**Q:** Who is Dusty Rhodes' most hated enemy?—Mike Hewett, River-view, Florida

**A:** "Terry Funk, just to name one," Dusty said without hesitation. "Ric Flair and Abdullah the Butcher are also real high on my

hate list."

**Q:** Does Bill Dundee want a shot at Jerry Lawler's southern heavy-weight title?—Sherrie Nelson, Savannah, Tennessee

**A:** "You bet!" said Dundee. "Next to the world title, that's the most important one to me. And I know I can beat Lawler any day of the week!"

**Q:** Ask The Grand Wizard what ever happened to his protege, George "The Animal" Steele—Mark Merritt, Fitzgerald, Georgia

**A:** "Mr. Steele is wrestling in Michigan, Ohio, and Canada," reports The Wizard. "And George wants to thank each and every one of his millions of fans for writing me letters asking how he is, and when he will be appearing in their area."

**Q:** Why isn't Sir Oliver Humperdink at ringside with The Hollywood Blonds anymore?—Sandra Wrede, Montclair, California

**A:** "Bless your dear heart for asking, Sandra," Humperdink said when he heard this question. "I am scouting the world at the present time in search of more talent to add to my fine stable. I still manage The Hollywood Blonds, even though I'm not presently with them."

**Q:** How many times has Ivan Koloff wrestled Ivan Putski and who won most of the matches?—Michael Strollo, Glenolden, Pennsylvania

**A:** "I wrestled Putski one hundred times," claims Koloff, "and I beat him each and every time." Putski

*(Continued on page 60)*

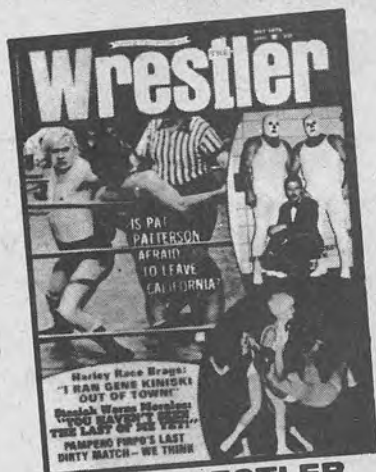


*A reader wrote in wanting to know who Dusty Rhodes' most hated enemy is. Dusty's answer was NWA champion Terry Funk, a man he has battled often (above), yet has not been able to win Terry's title.*



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# **THE EXECUTIONERS WIN THE WWWF TITLE...**



# **AND PROVE THEY INTEND TO KEEP IT**





PHOTOS BY  
JOHN AREZZI & BILL APTER

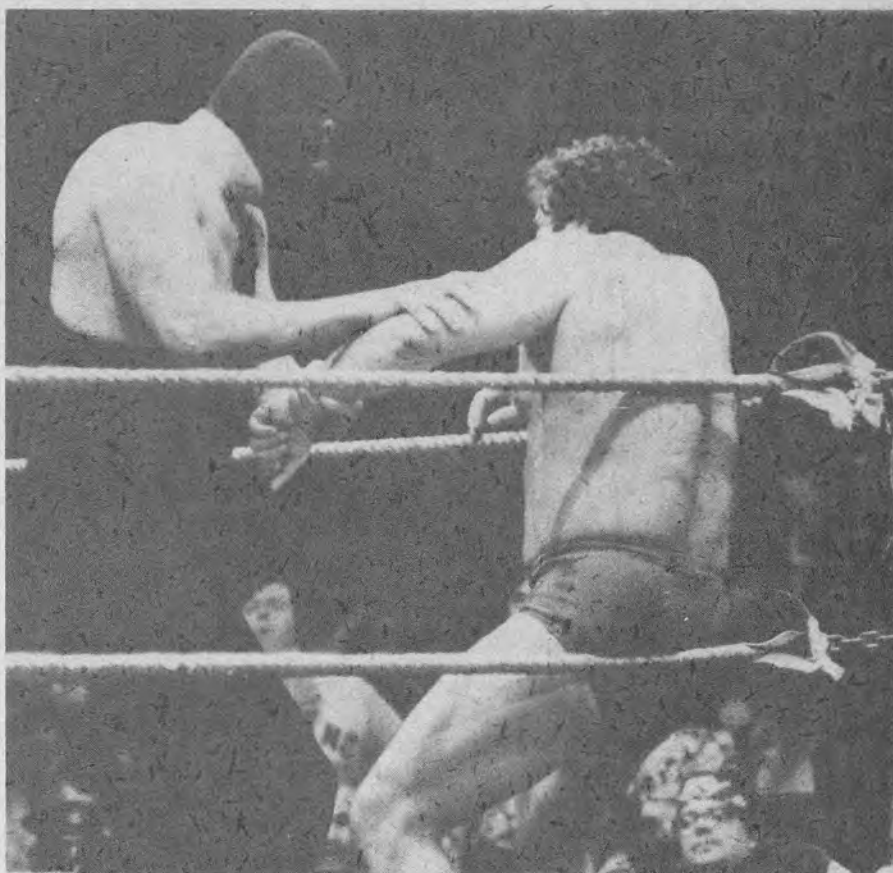
## A plague called The Executioners has descended upon the WWWF— and there's no cure in sight!

**T**HE THIRD BOTTLE of champagne was emptied by the revelers. They were obnoxious, boisterous, and nasty. They were The Executioners and Lou Albano, the tag team's manager. They were celebrating The Executioners capturing of the WWWF tag team title just a few hours before.

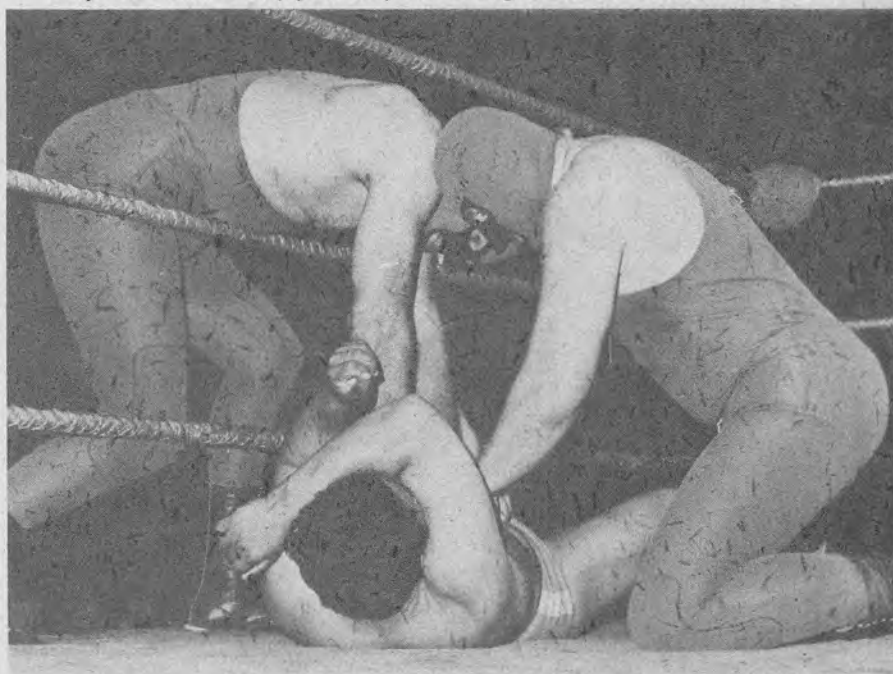
"I own this association!" Albano shouted. "More champagne! More champagne for the manager who owns WWWF tag team wrestling. I love Albano. 'Why, oh why, do I love Albano? Because he wins them all!'"

"I think I had something to do with it," one Executioner replied, his speech champagne-slurred. "I wrestled better than any man has ever wrestled before. I was poetry in motion. I was magnificence personified. I don't wrestle like a god—gods wrestle like me!"

"You two did fine," the second Executioner added, "no one can take that away from you. Speaking of taking



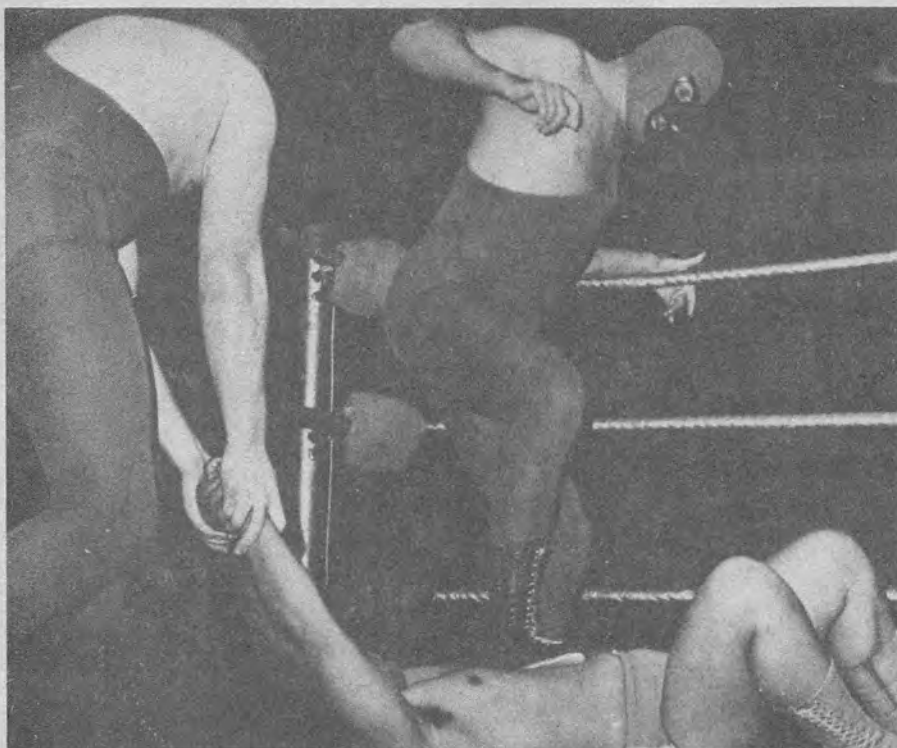
*One of The Executioners has a little help from Captain Lou Albano (top, left) to subdue Tony Parisi, while, the other Executioner has Louis Cerdan in a corner (above). In their first title defense The Executioners doubleteamed Jose Gonzales (below) in order to keep the belts. Many feel they are a blight on the whole WWWF!*



away, where's the champagne. I want more champagne, more championship champagne.

"But getting back to what I was getting back to—pardon me for repeating myself—but getting back to what I was getting back to, the real championship exhibition was put on

by yours truly. I was tremendous, a legend in my own time. I wouldn't be surprised if for this evening I win the most valuable athlete of the year award. 'To the better Executioner, we award the Hickok belt, for the greatest athletic performance of the year. I want you guys to know I'll remember



*Jose Gonzales did not fare too well against The Executioners. They doubleteamed him at one point in the match (above), then each one went to work on him individually (top, right and below). Their ruthless tactics have shocked many people in the WWF, but there seems to be nothing anyone can do to stop The Executioners' reign of bloody terror. Everyone is hoping a new team will emerge to take away the belts from this savage, brutal wrestling tag team.*



you both in my acceptance speech. I'd like to thank Lou Albano for . . . more champagne!"

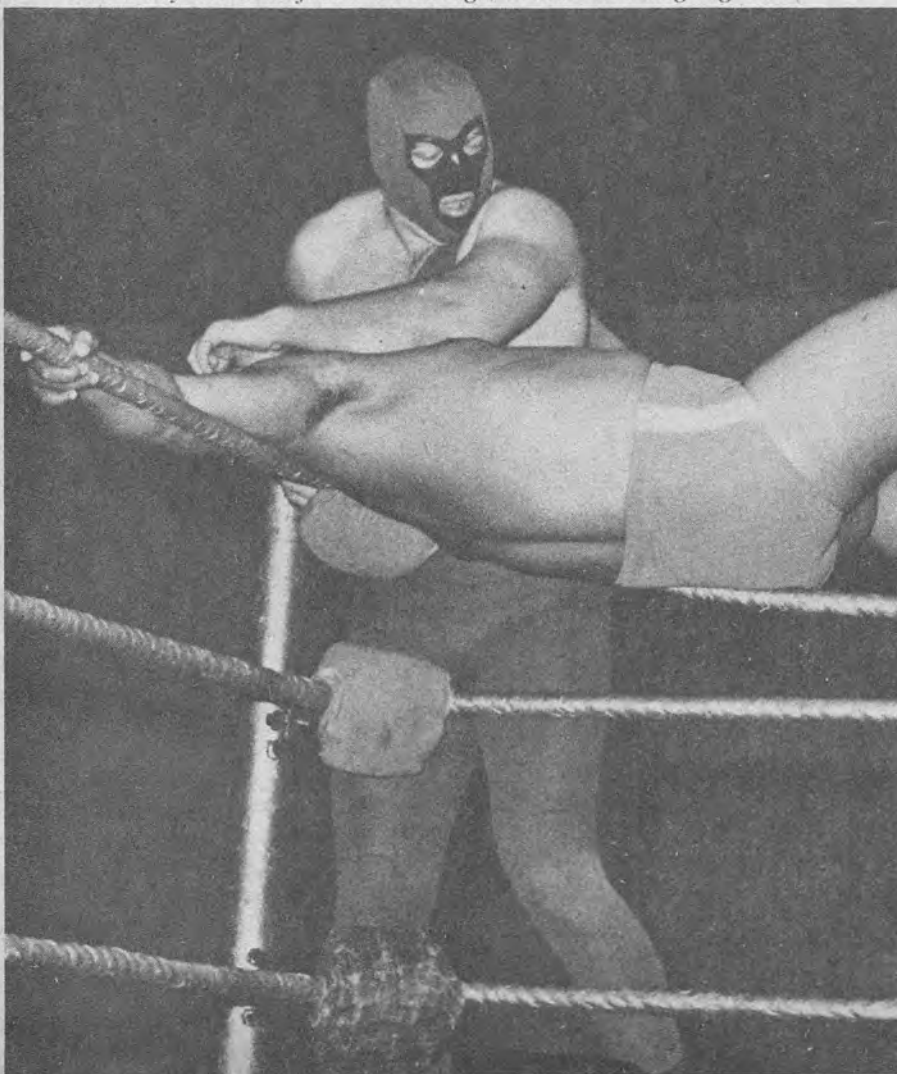
The bragging stopped to permit more guzzling. The men were celebrating The Executioners' victory for the WWF tag team belts, many say which was stolen from Tony Parisi and Louis Cerdan. The masked grapplers won two out of three falls—with the illegal help of Lou Albano. However, Albano's cunning prevented the referee from seeing the interference. The man had no choice but to award the match and the title belts.

So, the trio went out to sing their own praises. They had captured the title within only a few short months. The wrestlers' identities were unknown, their past a mystery. Yet, they defeated all who tried to stop them. Of course, they had a great deal of help from the cheating tactics of Lou Albano.

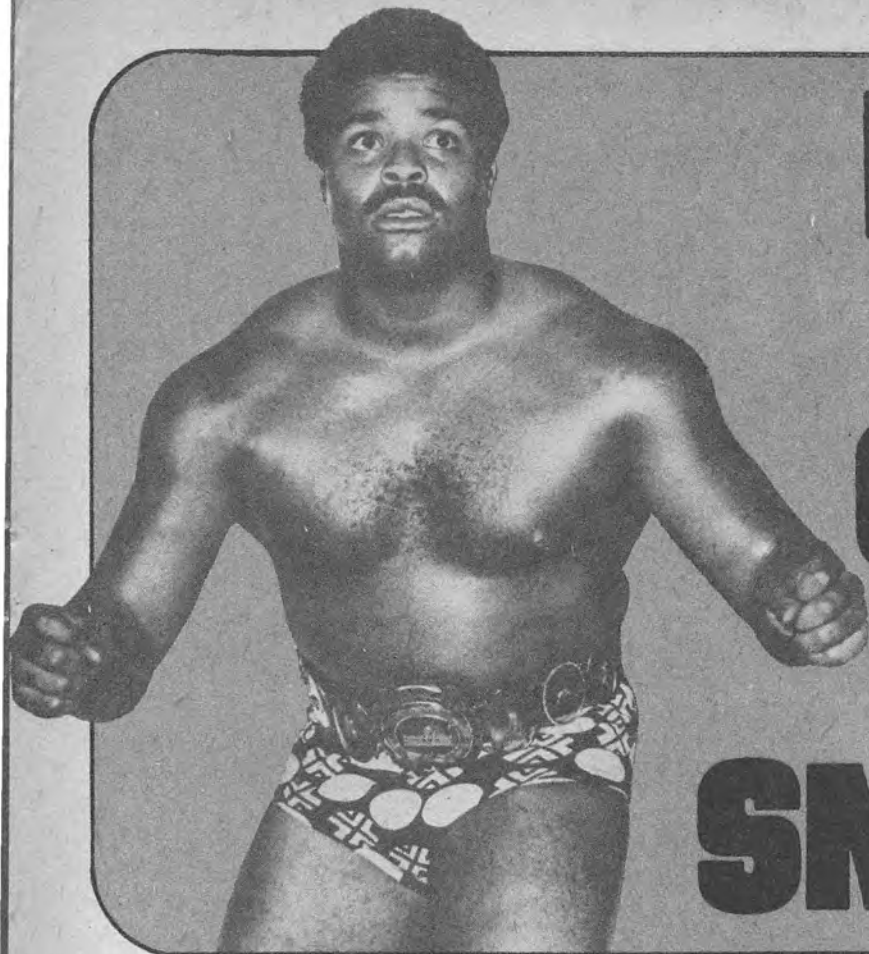
In every match, they grew more cunning and more savage. They worked like a well-oiled machine of destruction, knowing exactly what each man was expected to do. It was virtually impossible for a referee to detect their cheating tactics. With their success grew their reputations. The champions couldn't avoid their challenge.

"We wanted to meet The Executioners," Louis Cerdan said after he lost the title. "As champions, we had the responsibility to prove ourselves better than them. We proved we're better wrestlers. We failed to prove

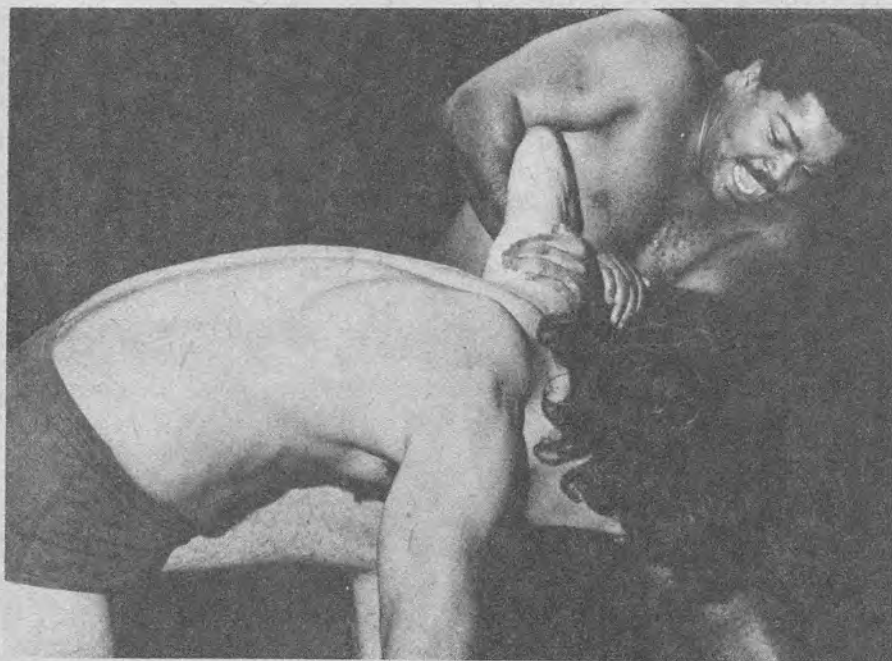
*(Continued on page 54)*







# PISTOL PEZ COMES OUT SMOKIN'



*The new champion of the UWA, "Pistol" Pez Wheatley, proves his abilities on Phil Watson. Wheatley has surprised many wrestling experts with his talents. They feel the youngster has a long and glorious future ahead. Pez Wheatley hopes the experts are right!*

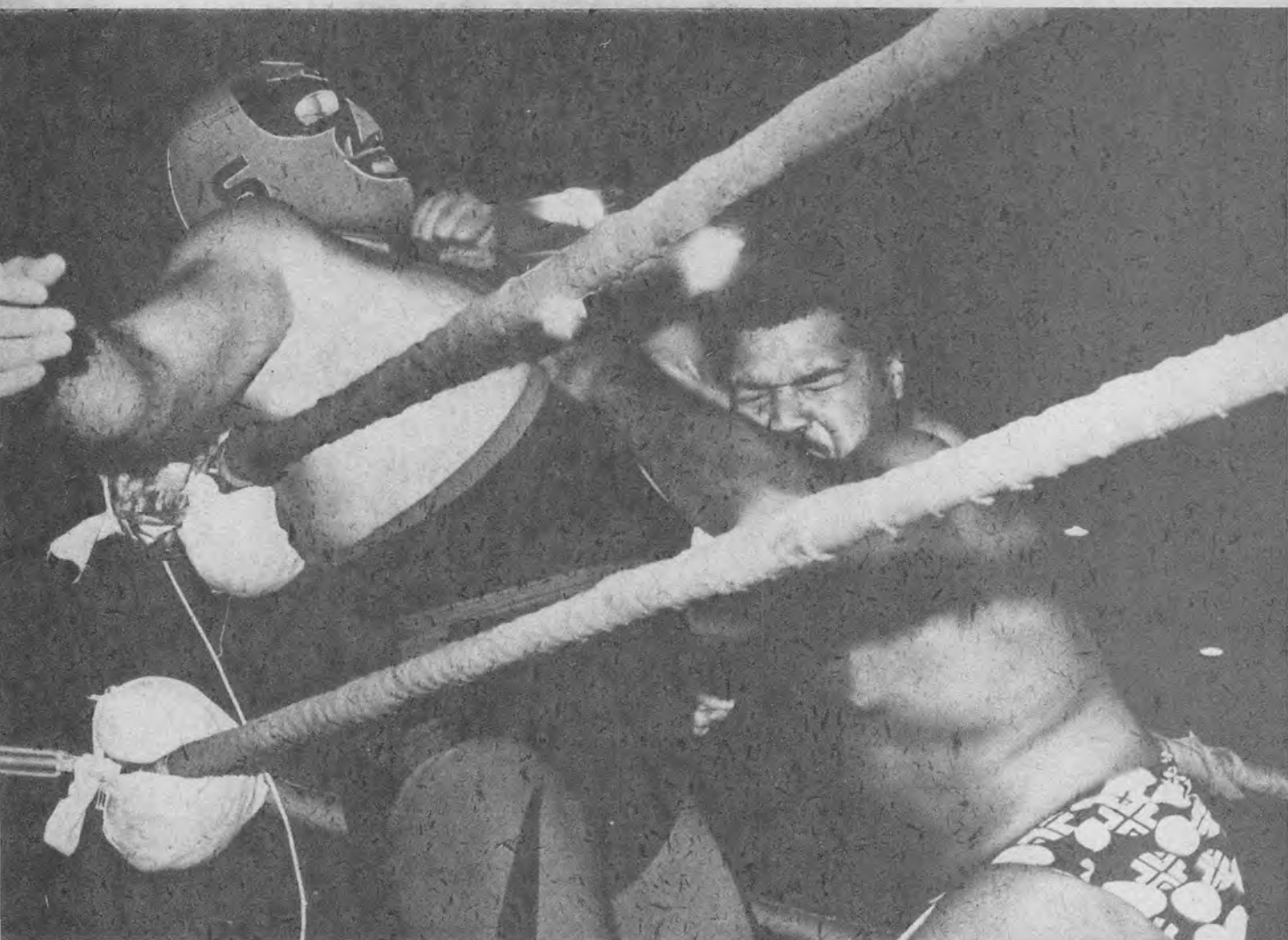
**T**HE ARENA LIGHTS beat down upon the square canvas. All else was dark save the occasional light from a cigarette. Out of the blackness could be heard thunderous screams. Bathed in light, alone in his glory, stood the new UWA champion, "Pistol" Pez Wheatley.

Probably no one in the audience was as shocked as the wrestler himself. Pez, anything but a dreamer, knew it usually took many years of hard work to make it to the top of his profession. Though still inexperienced in many ways, Pez now stood at the pinnacle of his profession.

It was a heady feeling for a man so young. The experts were dumfounded as the belt was placed around the new champion's waist. They had dismissed Pez as a promising but still unformed athlete. Now the young man knew he could be considered great. Even the experts would have to agree.

Pez was still in shock as he sat on

**Fans all over the country have been singing "Pistol" Pez Wheatley's praises. He's the kind of exciting young man who every so often proves wrestling is the greatest of all sports**



the training table, answering questions from reporters. Two hours before, he was a young man in the dawn of his career. Now, he was the new champion of a new grappling federation, Universal Wrestling Association.

"Did you expect to win?" was the first question asked.

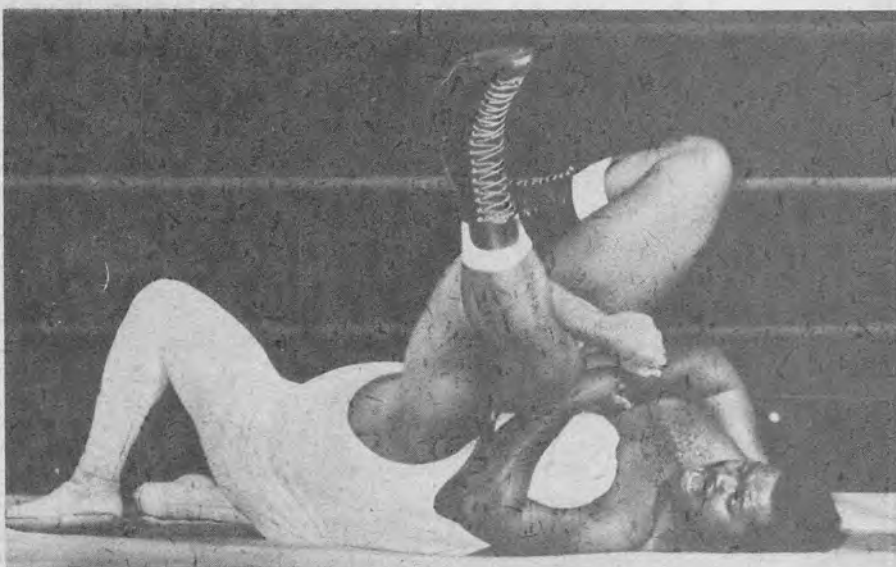
"I didn't expect to lose," the new champion replied with a smile, "though I really didn't hold too much hope of winning. I just didn't want to embarrass myself in front of the fans. I wanted to do my best. My best turned out good enough for me to win."

"Do you consider yourself lucky?" someone asked.

"I've always considered myself lucky," Pez admitted, "ever since I discovered I could wrestle. In high school, there was something different about the way I wrestled. I didn't know what it was; I didn't really think about it. I just knew I was luckier than the other guys."

"I thought I was lucky to be good enough to win the Tennessee high school wrestling championship. I

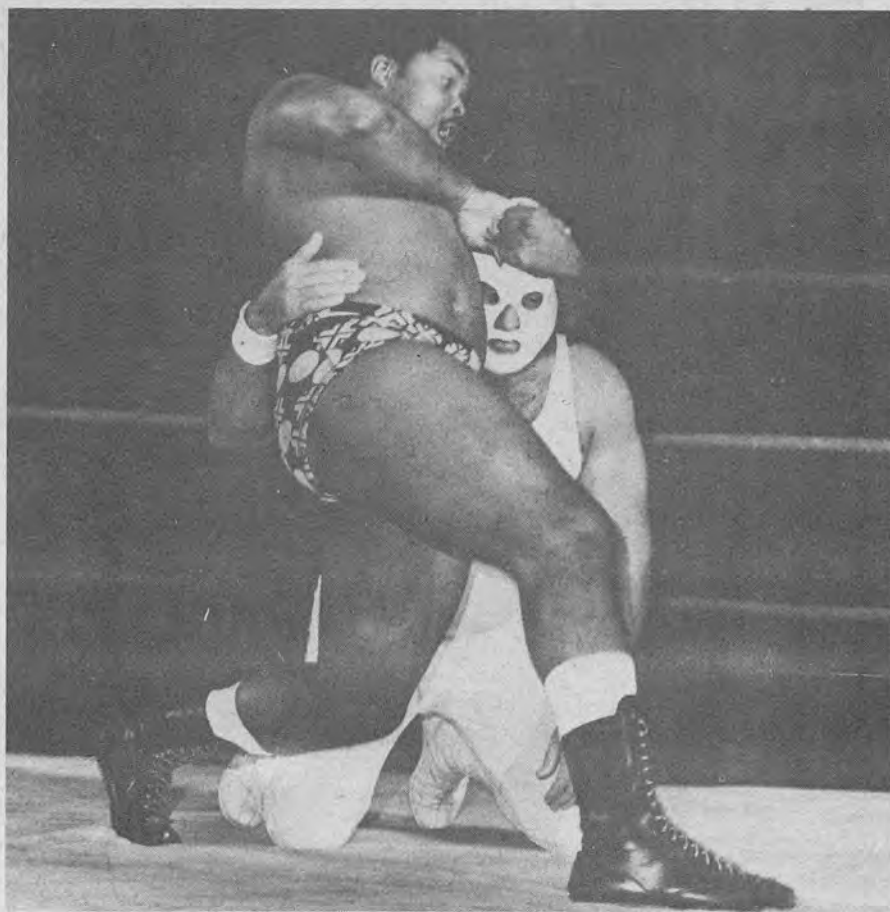
*"Pistol" Pez has proven he can hold his own against the most savage wrestlers in the UWA, like Intern #1 (above) and UWA Spoiler (below). Wheatley modestly attributes his success to chance and luck, but most veteran wrestling observers think there is lots of talent behind that luck which has propelled Pez to the top!*



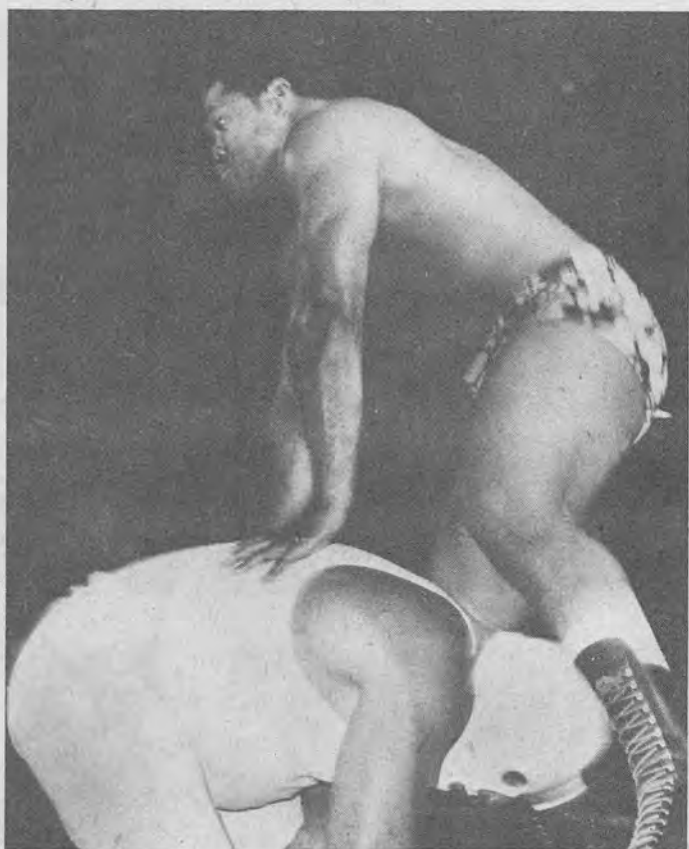
worked hard for it, but I was lucky. I was lucky to be invited to join the UWA after a fortunate college grappling career. I was lucky to win this title. I can't help it if I'm lucky."

Pez smiled happily as the interview continued. He joked with ease, answering all questions to the best of his ability, and enjoying the aura of a championship. Most reporters





*Against Intern #1 (above and right), "Pistol" Pez displays an excellent array of wrestling maneuvers. It was great moves like these which led Wheatley into the championship of the UWA in the first place. He has impressed everyone who has seen him in action. Pez hopes to be UWA champ for a long time.*



"He's a young man," Lou declares, "but he has an old mind. I've never seen a youngster who knows so much and can change strategies so easily. The mark of greatness is being able to win when your best moves aren't working. Pez can be repelled for a while, but not forever. Even his less effective moves—the ones he relies on in emergencies—are often good enough for victory."

"He seems to have a sixth sense which tells him to do the right thing at the right time. That usually takes at least a decade of experience. Many fine wrestlers never learn this at all. That's why a lot of great wrestlers never become champion. They can't make the right decisions instantly—and all the skill in the world won't make up for it."

"But Pez makes all the right decisions. He can analyze almost instantly. I've seen him watch a guy wrestle for three minutes and then predict exactly what the grappler will do in any given situation. I'd say he is right 80% of the time."

How does this young man do it?

"I wish I knew," Lou says with a laugh, "I'd be the wealthiest man in the world if I could teach it. I guess you'll have to call Pez a genius. The same special intelligence which allowed Einstein to solve mathematical equations operates for Wheatly with wrestling. He was born with his brain ready to absorb wrestling knowledge."

"All the training in the world won't turn a good wrestler into a Pez Wheatly. It's a gift the young man possesses and has developed. He's an incredibly hard worker, with all his natural gifts. I think he has a chance of rewriting wrestling history."

It has all come easily to Wheatly. His gifts have allowed him to become champion at an almost unheard of age. However, the responsibilities of a championship may weigh heavily on the young man. It takes a mature man to withstand the pressures, turn back the many challenges, and fulfill the many wrestling-related commitments.

Pez Wheatly may find it a lot harder to remain champion than become champion. On the other hand, Pez has spent his life doing things better than anyone else. He may yet become the best champion! □

entered the press conference considering Pez a young curiosity. They left respecting a great athlete.

There were some who knew all along Wheatly would set the wres-

tling profession on its ear. Six-time world champion Lou Thesz, now a top UWA executive, predicted before the match Pez would surprise everyone.

**Sheik and Abdullah tore each other to bloody shreds—to the fans' delight. Yet, maybe these two infamous barbarians had the last laugh on all who hoped to see them slaughtered!**

**O**NE WOULD HAVE to look back to pagan Rome to find its equal. The crowds in the coliseum also craved blood and hoped for slaughter. Two men were pawns for their pleasure, life meaning less than an afternoon's diversion.

This was the crowd's mood as it watched The Sheik in bloody combat against Abdullah the Butcher. Neither man has ever earned any sympathy. Hatred is more than just due. Yet their shrieks of bloodlust could chill the blood of any objective observer.

The crowd neither cared how it appeared or who was winning. They rejoiced when one or both men experienced agony. Each new gash was met with cheers; every crippling blow was accompanied by hurrahs. One had to keep reminding oneself there were two human beings suffering in that ring.

Usually, the appearance of a foreign object brings shouts of anger from the crowd. This time, when Sheik brought out his infamous pencil, it almost brought about a standing ovation. The crowd could hardly wait to see what damage it could cause!

It was equally terrifying to watch the crowd scream delightedly as Sheik pounded Abdullah with a chair. Blood poured down the hated Butcher's face as the heavy metal split flesh and threatened to crack bone. The crowd loved it!

Yet, the most disturbing aspect was the anger of the fans when other grapplers rushed in to stop the brawl. The action had spilled over onto the arena floor. It had to be halted, not only for the safety of the



PHOTOS BY GARY KAMENSACK

# Sheik vs. THE BLO THE FAN





*Blood was flowing everywhere on the night The Sheik battled Abdullah the Butcher (left and above). The spectators at this match were hoping the two cruel wrestlers would kill each other.*

wrestlers, but also for the protection of the fans. Still, the fans begged for it to go on, not satisfied with the tortures already inflicted.

Finally, this hideous spectacle was over. The two men had been separated, led bleeding and battered to different dressing rooms. All told, 35 stitches were needed to close wounds. It's a miracle neither man was hospitalized.

As the fans left, their eyes still sparkled with bloodlust. When asked how they could enjoy this mutual slaughter, they replied both men deserved to be hurt even more. Most wished it had lasted until one man was permanently injured.

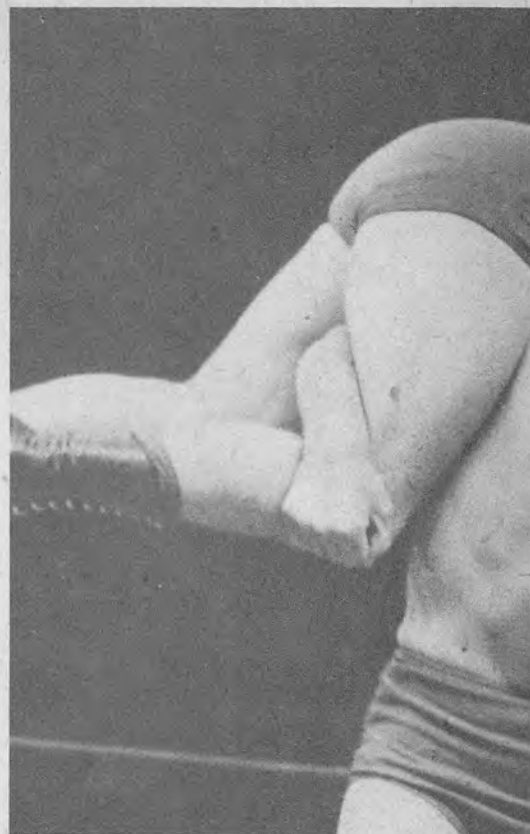
Mike DeMaio, a veteran wrestling fan, summed up the crowd's mood by saying, "Can you name two other guys who've made so many innocent men suffer? Can you name two other guys who deserve to get theirs as much as those creeps? They'd have done us all a favor by killing each other!

"Does Sheik give a damn when he blinds his opponents by fire? Does Abdullah care when he illegally slices up opponents? Hell they do! It's been a long time since someone savaged those guys the way they deserved. It's poetic justice they did it to each other. They just didn't do it enough."

*(Continued on page 56)*

# Abdullah ODBATH S LOVED

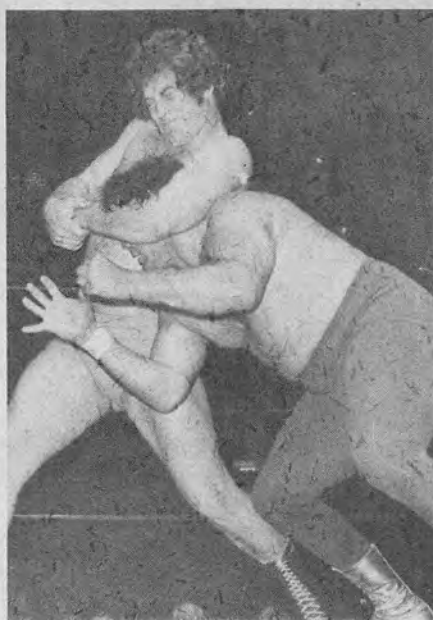
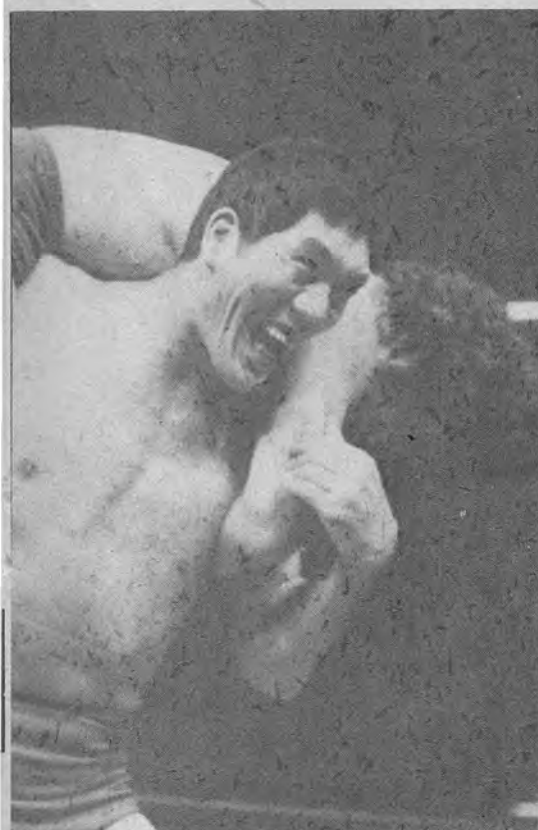
The time has passed for Jack Brisco to lick his wounds. The young man has worlds to conquer and is now ready for his greatest challenge—regaining the NWA championship!



*Since losing the belt he once carried proudly (left), Brisco has become determined to win back the honors. He lost his belt once before, to Baba the Giant (above), but he regained it one week later. When he was champion, Jack had no trouble defeating even rulebreakers like Superstar Billy Graham (right).*

**JACK  
BRISCO:  
"I'N  
THE T**





*Men like Jose Lothario gave the NWA champion a serious challenge for his belt (above). But Jack was able to beat back anyone, until he met up with Terry Funk in Miami. Brisco is determined to win back the title he held.*

**J**ACK BRISCO WALKED silently along the Florida beach, watching as the waves rhythmically washed up on the shore. He spotted a seashell lying in the sand a few paces ahead. He ran up to the object, grabbed it, and clutched it tightly in his powerful hand.

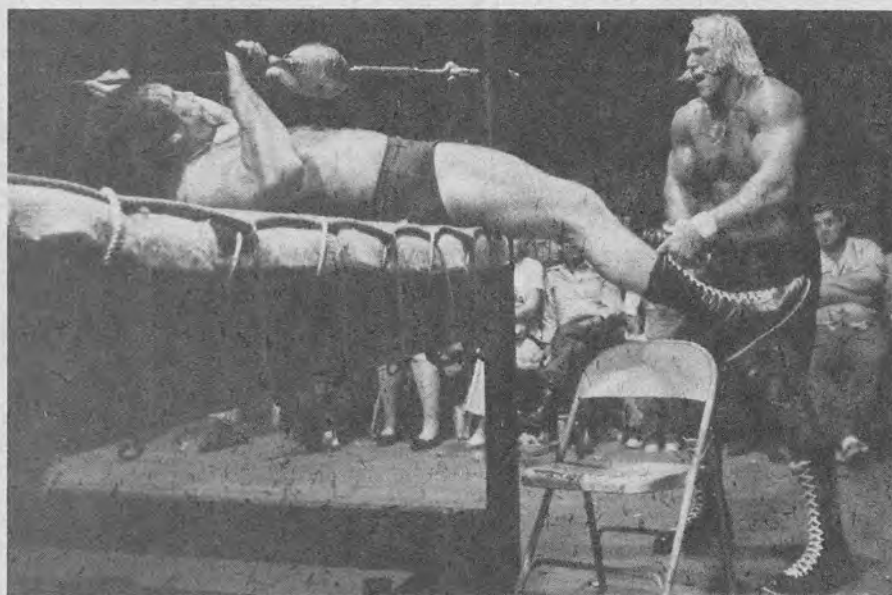
"I would have been less upset," Jack told his companion on that lonely Florida beach, "if I had lost the title to anyone else besides a Funk. I hate to admit it—even to myself—but I still think the NWA champion deserves a better champion than Terry Funk!" Brisco took the seashell in his hand and violently crushed it with his raw strength. It was an ugly, though rare, emotional outburst for a man with the usual calmness of Jack Brisco.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to lose my temper," said Jack. "But I become very upset when I think about Terry Funk holding the NWA title. He doesn't deserve to have it. I do."

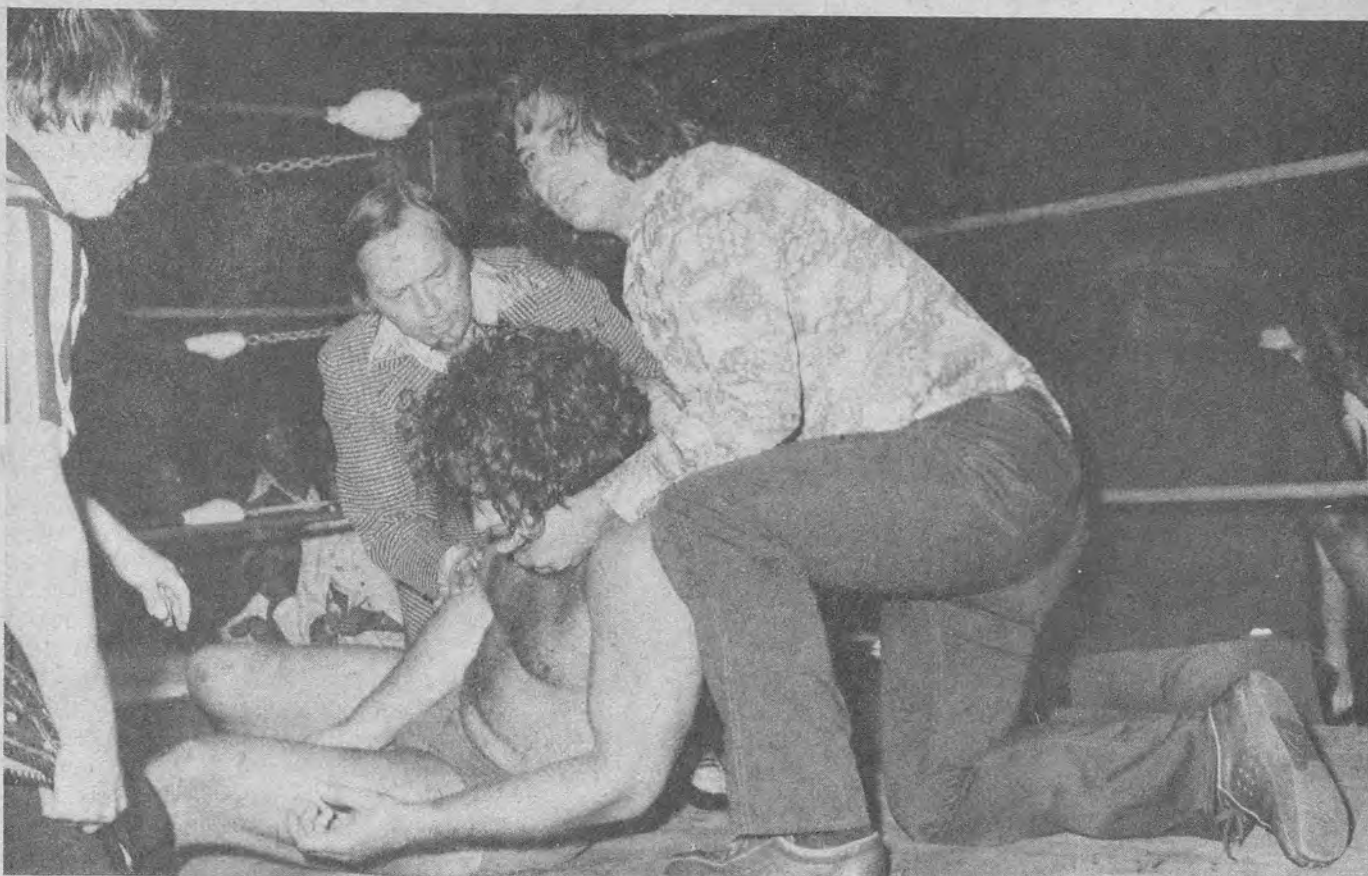
These may just sound like idle thoughts of an ex-champion, but Jack does not intend them that way. He is quite serious about regaining the belt he lost to Terry Funk. He wants it back—and now! He needs it back. And he has not just sat idly by, waiting for a rematch. He has prepared himself for a super-showdown against Funk.

Right after he lost the title, Jack seemed content to let someone else be champion for a while. He felt he had deserved, and had earned, a well needed rest. For a few months, he kept his activities in the mat wars to a minimum.

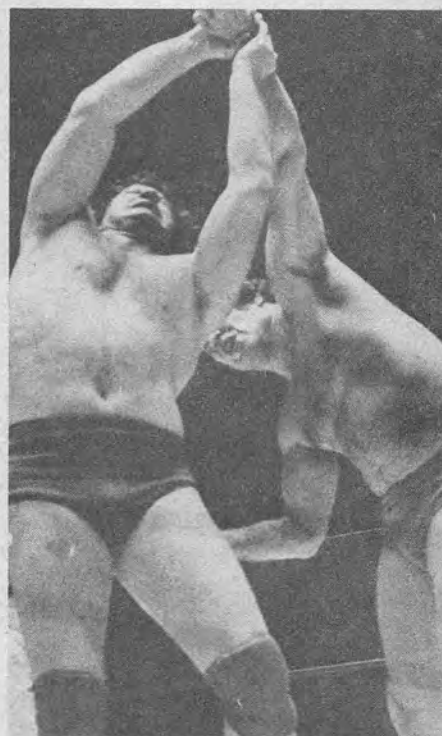
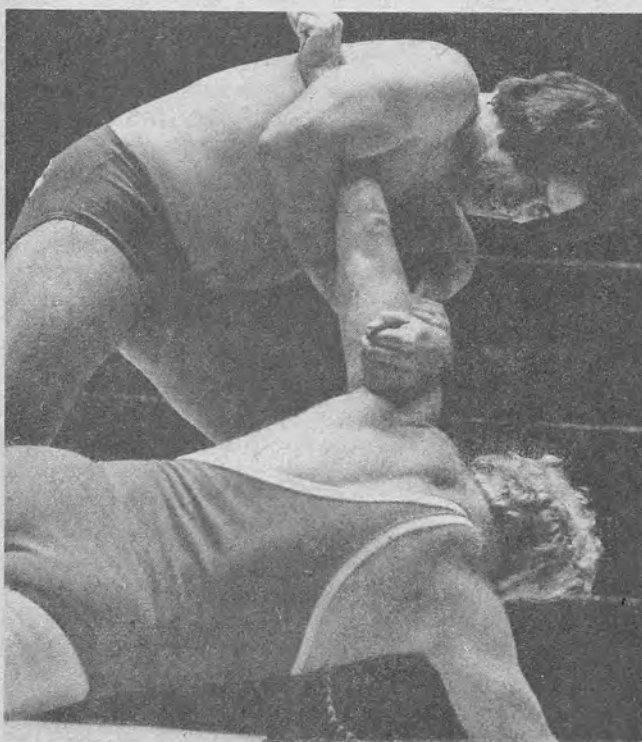
But all the while he was relaxing, he had growing fears Terry Funk might not be the most honorable champion the NWA had ever seen. Soon reports came back to Jack about Funk employing less-than-legal tactics to keep his belt. He heard many stories of Terry losing matches but keeping the title. It all seemed wrong to Jack. But



# NEED TO WIN TITLE AGAIN!"



*Above: Jerry Brisco, Jack's brother, and TV commentator Gordon Solie help Jack up after a rather savage match against Abdullah the Butcher. Left: Brisco has Billy "Red" Lyons just about ready to submit. Right: The challenger, Terry Funk, performs a very painful maneuver on the champion, Jack Brisco. Terry would go on to win this match in Miami, as well as winning all the honors of the NWA.*



he still did not take any action to combat the problem.

But Jack's inactivity was not destined to last too much longer. He kept hearing more and more stories about Terry Funk. Many of his close friends and advisors begged him to once again become active in the championship sweepstakes. Brisco decided to listen to their advice.

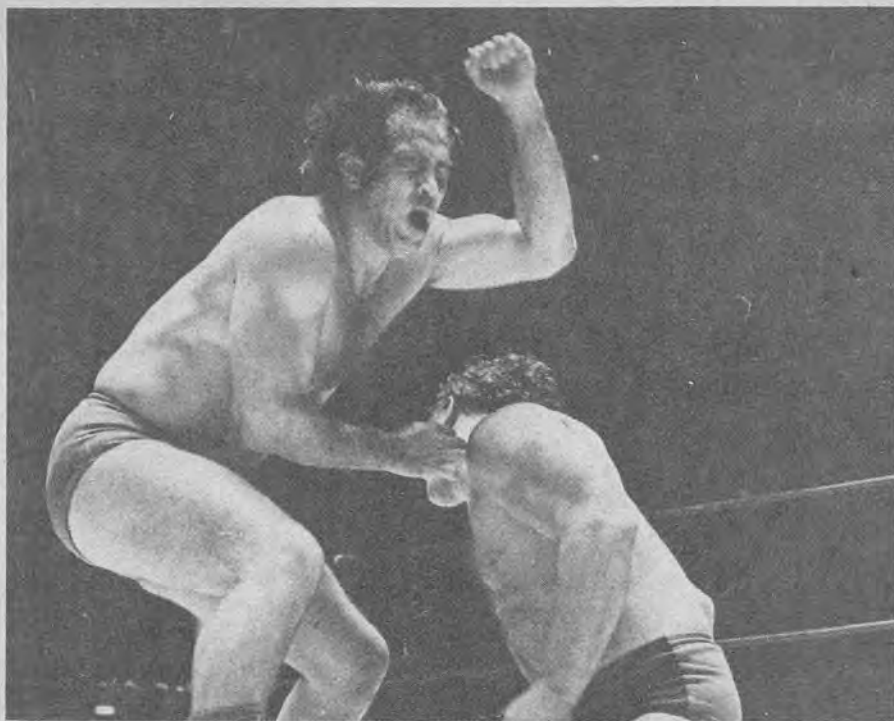
Jack realized from the start he could not have another confrontation with Terry Funk and expect to win if he was still using the same old, tired maneuvers he had used while champion. He needed to learn some new tactics. He had to start from the beginning again.

Many hours were spent in the gym devising and practicing new man-

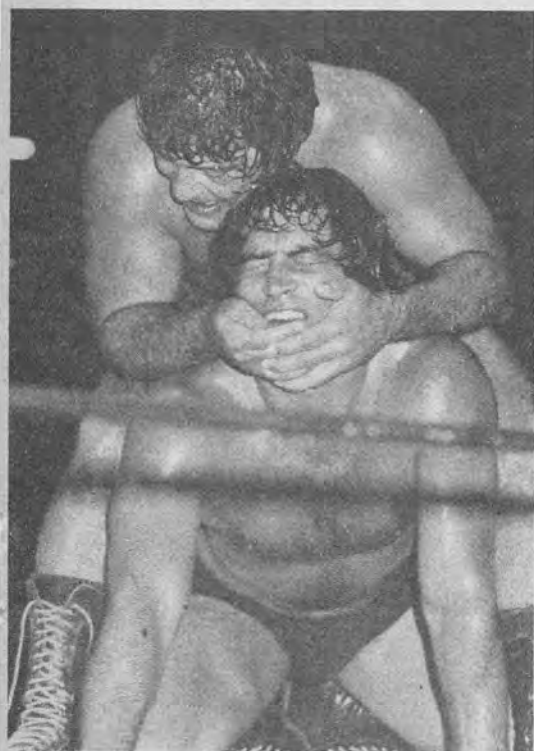
euvers to use on opponents. When Jack tried them out in actual matches, he found some of his new techniques worked while others didn't. He lost some matches along the way, but he chalked those up to the experience. Each new match was another investment in his education.

"You see," said Jack, "I am afforded a luxury Terry Funk cannot have. It





*Above: It wasn't supposed to happen this way. The night Terry won the NWA title, Brisco had been scheduled to wrestle Dory Funk Jr. Below left: Paul Jones tried several times to win the title from Jack. Below right: Jack slips a shoulder block from Dory Funk Jr.*



really doesn't matter if I lose a few matches along the way to rebuilding my style. In fact, I knew I had to lose a few. As champion, I could never afford one single loss.

"Terry Funk is really in that same situation. He has to win every time. I know he loses some of his matches, but these defeats come about through disqualification, and there's no honor in

that. But still in all, he has to use the same, tired tactics night after night to defeat each challenger. I know. I've been that route.

As champion, there is very little opportunity to experiment. Now and then a non-title match comes along and there's a chance to try out something new. But those matches are few and far between. For the most part,

every time you enter the ring wearing the belt, you have to come out of the ring wearing the belt. It's that simple. Familiar techniques have to be relied upon.

"But all of this is true for any champion. Terry Funk is a little different. Unlike most men, he sees no reason to bring honor along with the title he holds. This is wrong. A champion should wrestle like a champion. Terry Funk just doesn't seem to care what illegal tactic he uses. He doesn't seem to notice almost every wrestler in the NWA knows his tactics, and has learned how to combat them.

"The NWA deserves a better champion than Terry Funk!"

But if the NWA deserves a better champion, who should that new titleholder be?

"The answer to that question is simple," said Jack. "Me! Who else is more qualified? I don't want to sound like I'm boasting, but I really believe I could return the honor to the NWA title.

"I now realize the statements I made soon after I lost the title were ridiculous. I said then I didn't want to regain the title. I said then I enjoyed the relative freedom I could enjoy without the schedule of a champion. But things have changed since then.

"I do miss the trappings associated with being a champion. And there is more honor in being a champion than an ex-champion. So I have to try to win my title back. I miss being champion.

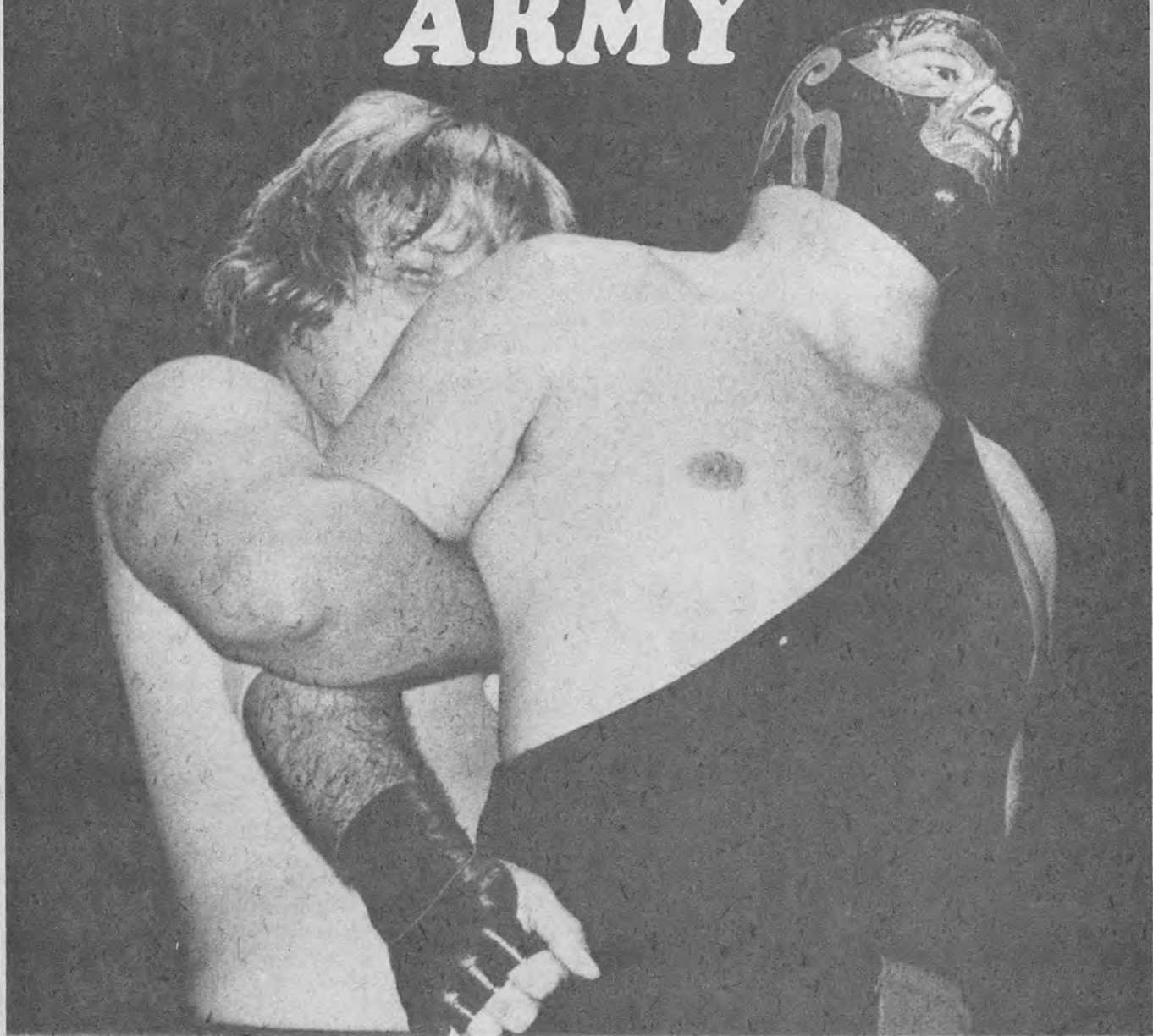
"I don't want you to misunderstand me. I enjoyed those idle months I had. I really needed that time to experiment and develop. Those months I spent reflecting upon my life and my goals were a tremendous help. I now can see clearly which directions my life should take. The first step I must take to achieve these ends is to regain the NWA championship.

"I am confident I can do it. Terry Funk had better watch out. His days as champion are numbered."

Jack continued his stroll down the Florida beach. A few people were beginning to come down and watch the ocean, just as Brisco was. Someone recognized Jack and asked the ex-champion for his autograph. Brisco happily signed his name.

A half mile down the beach, Jack stopped again and stood there watching the movements of the vast ocean in front of him. "I will get my title back," said Jack quietly, but firmly. "I won't allow a Funk to have it much longer now." □

# DICK SLATER DECLARES WAR ON GARY HART'S ARMY



**T**HE WORLD WAS going through its usual motions. Dick Slater could hear the sounds of people going about their business outside of his motel room. The sun was probably shining. Slater couldn't tell through the thick, closed drapes.

Dick had spent the last two hours lying flat on his bed, pondering if he should go into the bathroom and make

his complimentary cup of coffee. It wasn't much of a decision, but it did keep him from making the big decision.

Lying in the dark room all day, Dick Slater didn't want to do what had to be done. Bridges would be burned beyond repair. Like would never be the same again. The world was about to make great demands on Slater. More

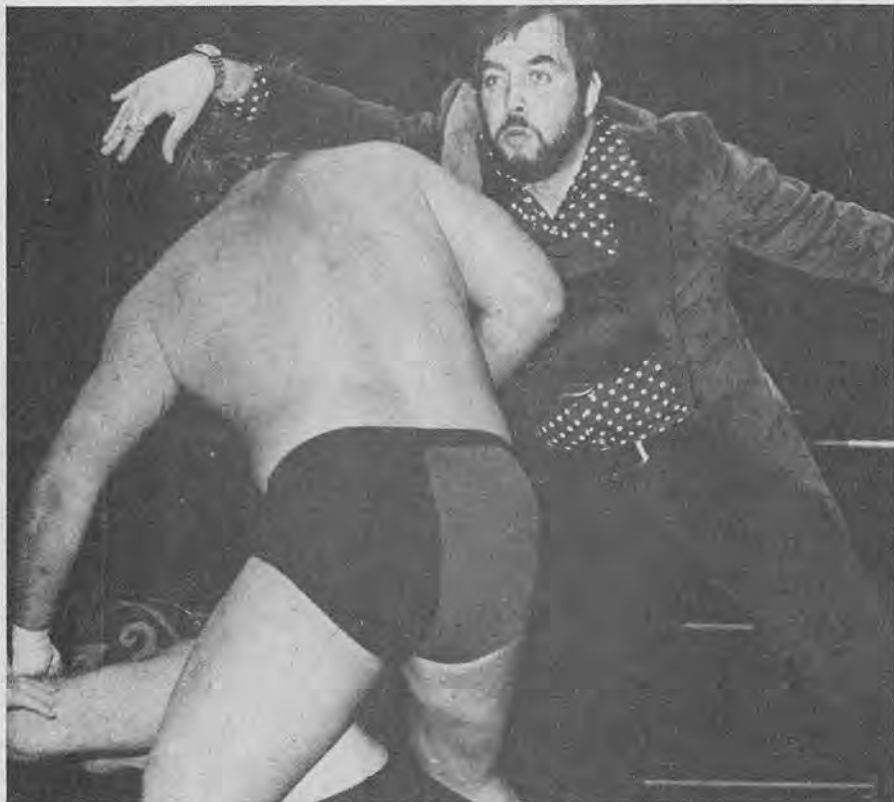
accurately, Slater was about to make great demands on himself. As long as he lay in his motel room, however, he was safe.

At four o'clock in the afternoon, Slater decided to boil the water for coffee. He stumbled toward the bathroom, dizzy from having spent more than 16 hours on his back. He placed the water on the heating coil and then



# The inevitable has occurred: Dick Slater has vowed to destroy Gary Hart's grappling empire. Now, the wrestling community waits with bated breath for the bloody resolution

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER



*Above: Gary Hart tries to stop Dick Slater from destroying The Spoiler. Below: Hart looks on from the sidelines as Slater is beating his man in the ring.*



stepped into the shower. The shower was tepid, washing over Dick with numbing warmth. He walked out of the shower no more refreshed than when he entered.

The water was ready when Slater had dried himself off. Dick emptied the various packets into the disposable cup and then poured in the water. The instant coffee, imitation

creamer, and substitute sugar congealed a moment before dissolving. Dick cracked the wooden stirrer into splinters when he finished with it. He threw the shards toward the wastebasket and missed. He didn't bother to pick the pieces off the floor.

Dick lay down again on the bed and sipped the coffee. There was no longer any hope of avoiding the inevitable. In an hour, the reporters would be knocking on his door. He hadn't eaten all day, still, he wasn't hungry. There would be plenty of time to eat after the reporters left.

"Do I want to do this?" he kept asking himself. The same answer was always heard: "Yes." There was nothing he could do but wait.

After what seemed like an eternity, there was a knock on the door. Slater ran a hand through his hair and ambled slowly toward the entrance. As he opened it, the sun flooded into the darkened room. Reporters saw an unshaven face twist into a painful squint. Dick turned away from the blinding illumination as the reporters followed him into the dark room.

"Can I get you anything?" Dick asked politely, if absurdly; there was

plainly nothing in this bare room to be had. The reporters declined his offer. No longer able to stall, Slater was doomed to say his piece.

"You were all at that arena last night," Dick said softly, speaking as if he was trying to choose words he knew didn't exist. "You saw what happened. It wasn't the first time. It probably won't be the last. But one thing is going to change! Dick Slater is no longer Gary Hart's prime sucker!"

Dick was referring to a match he'd battled against Spoiler, one of the most notorious men in Gary Hart's army. Before this bout, Slater had nothing against Hart. Career demands had forced Dick to challenge some of the men Hart has under contract. Both men being veteran professionals, Slater thought there would be no hard feelings. He found out how wrong he could be.

In match after match, against Spoiler or Greg Valentine or Toru Tanaka, Hart would interfere Slater, either stealing the victory or insuring Dick's defeat. Whatever occurred, Hart would make sure Slater had the bruises to prove he'd been in a war!

Finally, in a match against Spoiler, Hart had battered Dick to near senselessness. Though Hart had been disqualified, Dick had been woozy for hours from the beating. It was the last time Slater would be battered without revenge!

That's why the reporters were gathered in the room. They were ready to hear Slater's formal declaration of war against Hart's army.

"When I wrestle any man connected with Gary Hart," he announced, choosing every word carefully, "I will know no rules. I will do whatever I must to win. That includes slaughtering any man who stands in my way."

Once he said the words, he breathed a deep sigh. He knew of the record of men who threaten Hart's army—the casualty list is long and ugly. The risk would be great, the chances of victory slim. Yet, once the challenge was made, Slater never considered backing down.

As the reporters left Slater, they knew he was a very brave man. They hoped the price of his bravery wouldn't ultimately be his career. □

**More Than  
50,000  
Cheering Fans  
Watch As...**

**BRUNO  
MAKES  
THE  
GREATEST  
COMEBACK  
IN HISTORY!**



**T**HE DRESSING ROOM door was closed. No reporters were allowed inside. Bruno Sammartino wanted to be alone before his revenge match against Stan Hansen.

Reporters milled about in the hallway, hoping Bruno would relent and let them have a brief interview before he sought his revenge. They were looking for anything to write about, some small sign before the

match that would be an omen of its outcome. When an attendant came out of the dressing room, they swarmed around him, shouting questions. The aged man, thrilled at the attention, stood as tall as his frail frame would allow him and responded to each inquiry.

"He's more nervous than I've ever seen!" the man announced "Why, I go back to the days of Ed (Strangler)

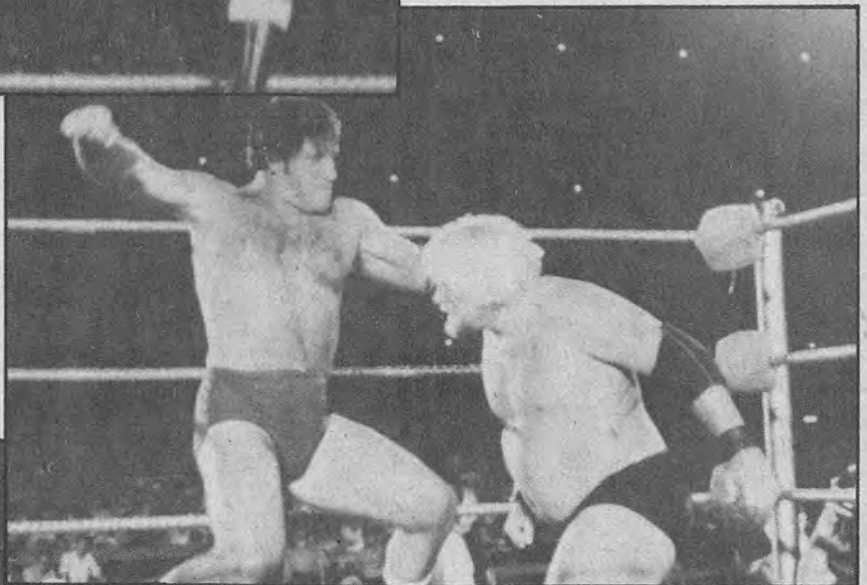
Lewis, which is before most of you guys were born. He's nervous, you can bet. He's talking with that manager of his, Arnold Skoaland, and they're going over strategy. Every so often, that manager asks Bruno how he feels, if the neck is stiff. Each time, Bruno says he's fine. Maybe so, but he's nervous as all hell."

Bruno had a right to be nervous in the moments before he walked out to

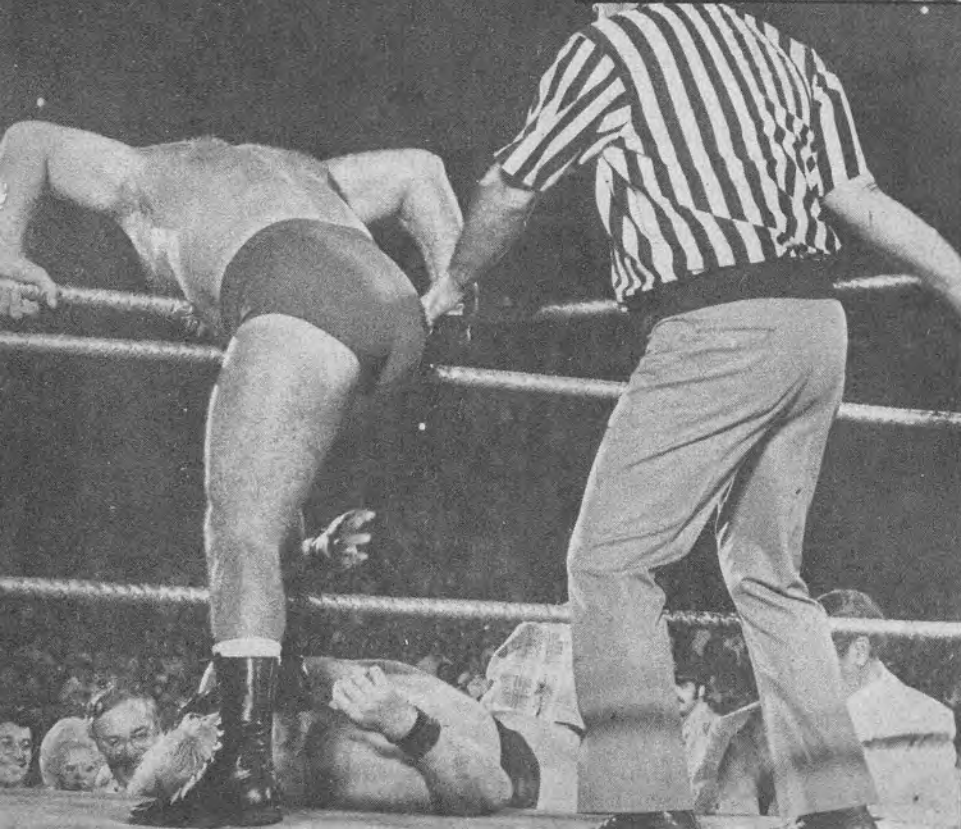




*Upon entering the ring, Bruno Sammartino is almost overcome by emotion (opposite page) as he hears the wild cheering of the huge crowd at New York's Shea Stadium. As soon as the match began, Bruno charged at Hansen and took control of the bout (above, right, and below). Nothing could stop an enraged Bruno from getting his revenge.*



**Still feeling the effects of his injury, Bruno Sammartino could wait no longer to exact revenge from Stan Hansen. In perhaps his greatest conquest, Bruno Sammartino proves he is indeed wrestling's living legend!**



the ring in the middle of New York's Shea Stadium. Two months before, these same New York fans had seen Stan Hansen crack the vertebrae in Bruno's neck. For two months, Sammartino had wondered if he would ever wrestle again. On this night, the stadium was filled with more than 35,000 fans (another 15,000 people watched the event live on closed-circuit television) ready to witness the triumphant return of Bruno Sammartino — or mourn the passing of a living legend.

The strategies Bruno and Arnold were discussing involved various methods of avoiding Hansen's "lariat." This was the move responsible for cracking Bruno's neck. Hansen, using an elbowpad most people believed to be loaded with a steel pad, slams his padded elbow into his opponent's face as the foe rebounds off the ropes. The force is enough to send anyone to the hospital!



Bruno knew he would be finished if he suffered the lariat again. His neck couldn't withstand the shock of another injury so soon. His recuperative powers couldn't be expected to survive the strain of yet another major injury. There was every chance if the lariat was successful, Sammartino would be permanently crippled.

As the time for the match approached, the promoter knocked on the dressing room door and announced, "Two minutes to the match! We'll need you outside now! Hansen is already preparing to enter the stadium!"

From behind the door came the familiar voice of Bruno Sammartino declaring, "Ready!"

Reporters had intended to ask Bruno for a short statement before he entered the stadium. However, as the door opened and Sammartino appeared, they fell silent. The look on the champion's face told them not to disturb this man. His whole being was concentrated on the man he was about to face. He probably wouldn't have even heard their questions.

As Bruno stepped out on the stadium grass, the cheers were deafening. Somewhere in Bruno's mind he must have enjoyed the fantastic ovation, but his face revealed no delight. He appeared to care only about the man already standing in a corner of the ring. The man was Stan Hansen, his face twisted in a cruel snarl.

Bruno leaped over the ropes and strode to his corner. He couldn't wait to get his hands on Hansen. No one ever remembered Bruno so agitated. The referee tried to examine Hansen's elbowpad for a steel plate. When Hansen tried to avoid the inspection, Bruno couldn't stand the delay for the match to begin.

"Forget the inspection!" Sammartino yelled to the official. "Just get this thing underway!"

The referee was stunned by the request, knowing how dangerous a loaded elbowpad would be to Sammartino. But he stopped trying to get Hansen to take off the pad and signaled for the match to begin. The bell sounded, starting the most important match in Bruno Sammartino's career.

Bruno came out of the corner as if shot by a cannon. He tore into Hansen like a starving beast upon its wounded prey. Stan felt like a blind man falling into a open manhole; he had no idea of where he was or what was happening. All he could do was leap over the ropes

*This was Bruno's first bout after being put in the hospital by Stan Hansen. However, Sammartino was never better as he punished his hated foe with punches (above), armdrags (right), and kicks (below). Before the bout Bruno had promised to get his revenge from Hansen. Bruno was true to his word as he dominated the action.*





and out of Sammartino's reach.

"What can I do?" Hansen asked his manager, Grand Wizard (substituting for Hansen's regular manager, Freddie Blassie). "How the hell can I stop him?"

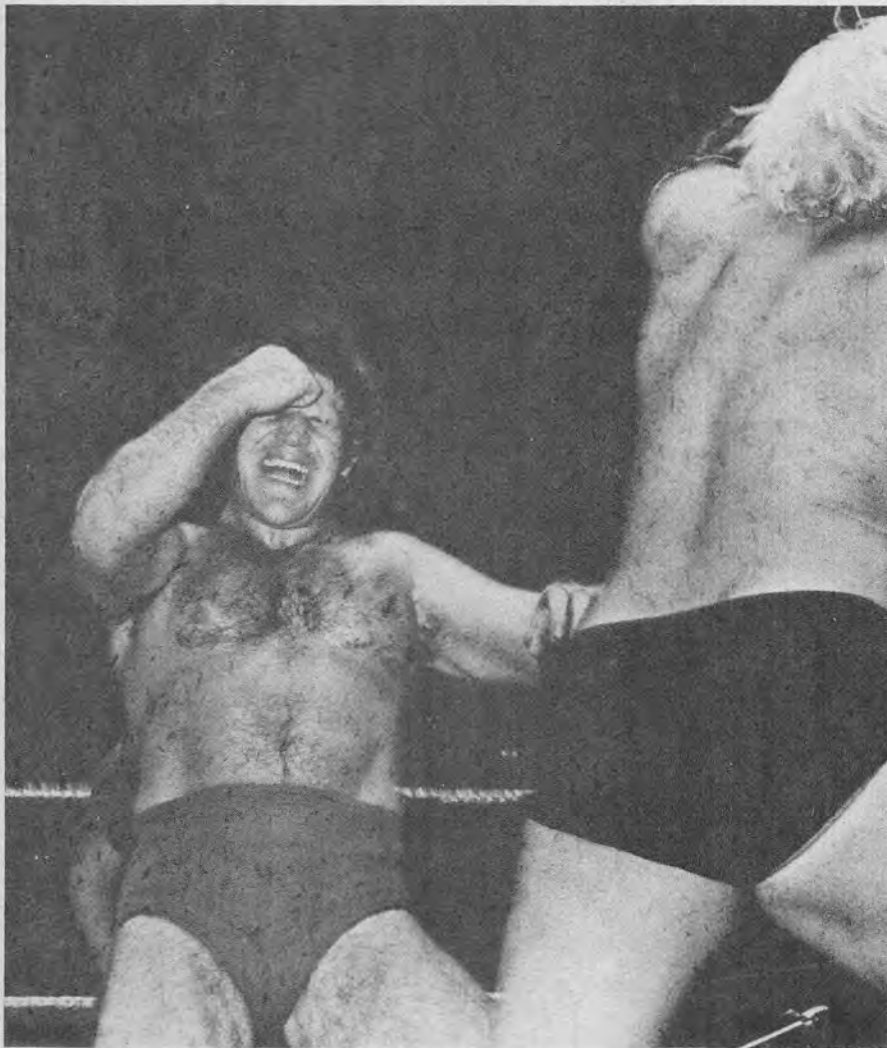
Wizard just stood there, his mouth open with awe. What strategy do you use to combat a tornado? All you can do is run for cover.

That became Hansen's strategy through the rest of the match. Most of his time was spent leaping over the ropes, trying to get away from Sammartino's assault. Each time Hansen climbed back into the ring, Bruno was on him like a swarm of locusts.

Then, the stadium held its breath. Hansen threw Sammartino into the ropes. As Bruno rebounded back across the canvas, Hansen stuck out his elbowpad, ready to lariat Sammartino. Bruno stumbled helplessly toward his doom, the loaded elbowpad ready to destroy.



*Above: When this photo of Bruno in the hospital was taken, it was only five weeks before he made his dramatic comeback. At the time this photo was snapped, Bruno was not sure whether or not he would ever wrestle again.*



*Bruno Sammartino clutches his head in pain (above) after being hit with Stan Hansen's lariat in their first bout. It was this tactic which caused Sammartino to be hospitalized with the broken neck.*

Cheers filled the stadium when, at the last possible instant, Bruno decked under the outstretched arm of Hansen and escaped disaster. Hansen was so shocked at his failure that he never even realized what hit him. Sammartino had whirled around and sent him toppling to the canvas. When Hansen realized what had happened, it was too late to do anything about it.

Bruno took off Stan's elbowpad and began pounding Hansen senseless. Hansen escaped from this only to have Bruno smash his head into the turnbuckle. Again and again, to the cheers of the crowd, Bruno slammed Hansen's head into the turnbuckle. Blood began to flow from the gash across Hansen's forehead.

When Stan managed to work his way free, he realized he was finished. Blood was pouring from his cuts, his body ached all over, and his tormentor couldn't wait to torture him some more. After considering the situation, Hansen leaped over the ropes and scurried back to the dressing room.

Bruno Sammartino had avenged his injury. He'd avenged the insults Hansen had hurled at a man forced to a hospital bed. Most important of all, Bruno proved he was still the champion! □

# Why Terry Funk "DUSTY RHODES NEVER WIN MY TITLE!"

**T**HE WORKING PRESS which was gathered in Terry Funk's dressing room was shocked. They had never heard a champion—any champion—dare to make so bold a statement as the one they had just heard the NWA titleholder make.

"Could you repeat what you just said again?" asked one incredulous reporter.

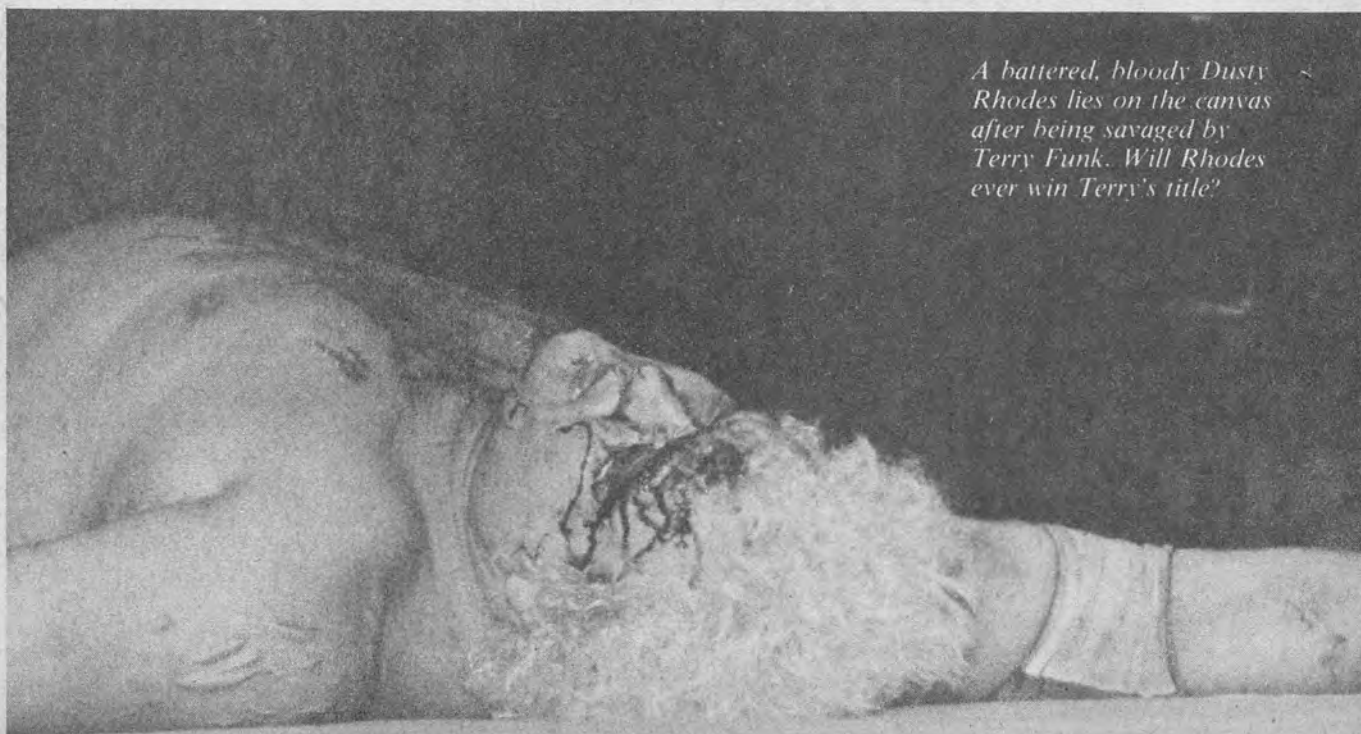
"Certainly," said Terry. "What I said was that no matter what he does, Dusty Rhodes will never—and I repeat never—win my title. I don't care what he tries to do to me, he will never wear my belt. It's that simple. Any questions, gentlemen?"

The reporters did not know what to say. A champion of an associa-

tion does not usually go out on a limb and state flatly that a high ranking contender will never win the championship. In addition, Funk had just lost to Rhodes—though in a non-title bout. Usually a champion will not commit himself. It isn't a wise idea to do so.

But they had all heard what Terry Funk had said. He was definite in his

*A battered, bloody Dusty Rhodes lies on the canvas after being savaged by Terry Funk. Will Rhodes ever win Terry's title?*





# Says: WILL IN "

PHOTOS BY DON DELEON

statement. There would be no way for Dusty to win the belt. Still, one question remained in the minds of the reporters: How could Terry be so sure?

Before any member of the press had a chance to ask the questions, Terry decided to add one more comment: "You gentlemen may want to know why I can state flatly Dusty Rhodes will never get my belt. The answer is simple. He just doesn't know how to defeat me in a title match. As far as I'm concerned, he can win all the non-title matches he wants. Tonight was tough, gentlemen, but it didn't count!"

Terry was quite correct—what had happened a few minutes earlier in the arena did not count, and Dusty was furious about that.

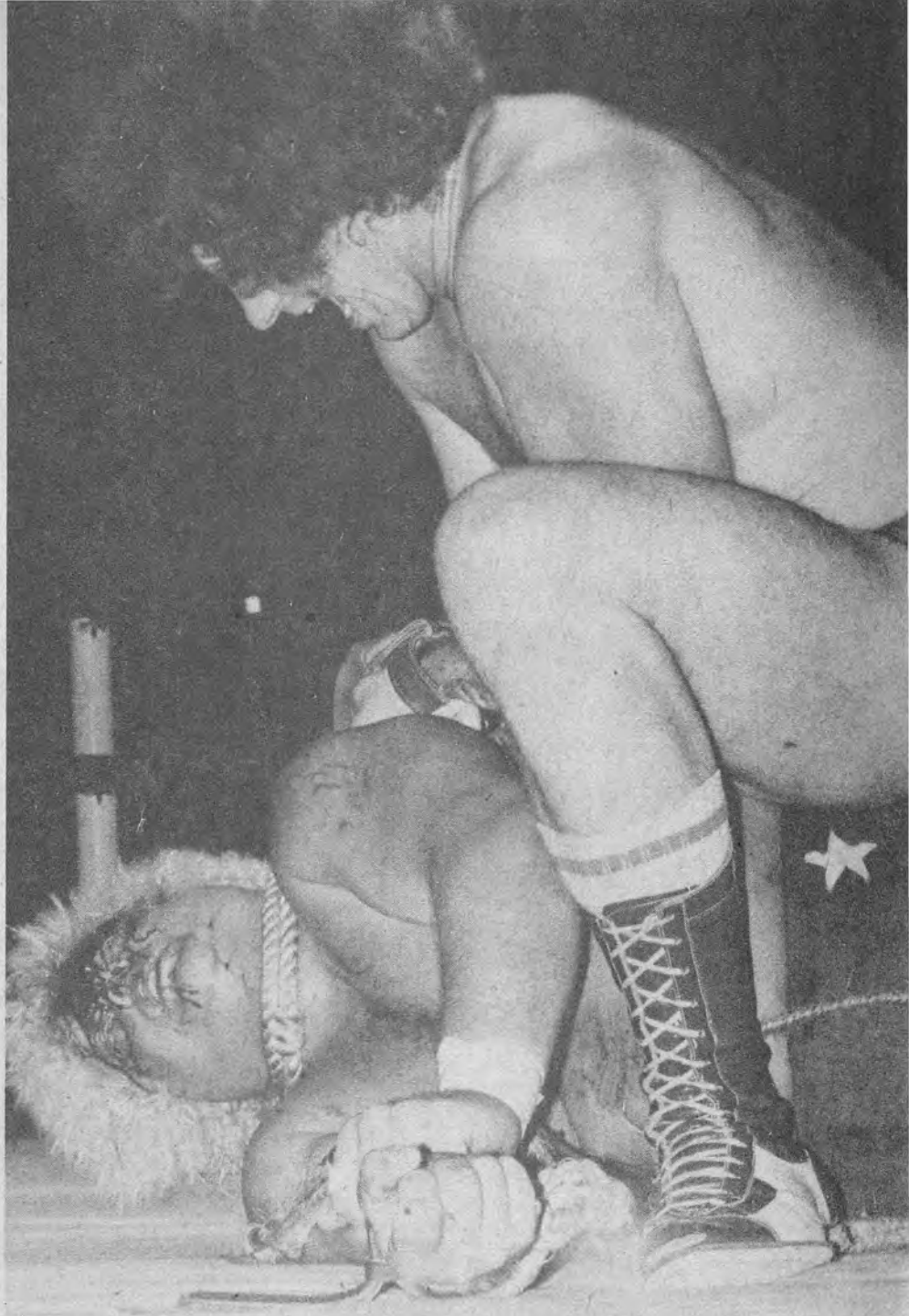
A month before, Dusty Rhodes had devised what he had believed to be the ideal way to win Terry's championship. He had heard of a type of battle called a "Texas Bull Rope Match," in which the winner must tie up the loser with a bull rope. Dusty figured—and rightly so, as it turned out—he could defeat Terry Funk in this type of bout.

At first Terry was reluctant to agree to another match against Dusty Rhodes, especially a Texas Bull Rope Match. However, he

changed his mind, on the condition it be a non-title match. Dusty had no choice; he wanted the match against Funk, so he had to accept Terry's condition.

So even before the two had met in battle, Terry had once again outsmarted Dusty Rhodes, but the "American Dream" didn't realize it completely. He figured if he won the bull rope match, Terry would automatically have to give him a

(Continued on page 58)

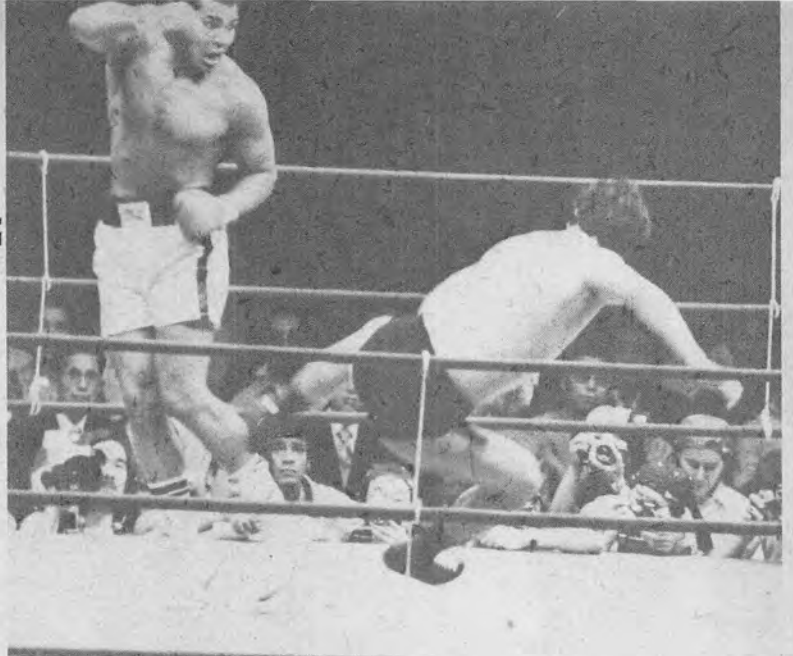


*In a non-title Texas Bull Rope Match, Terry tries to choke Dusty, but cannot succeed (above). Rhodes went on to win this match, but he did not win Terry's title. Every time they wrestle, Funk has been able to outsmart Dusty and keep the championship. Rhodes has vowed to someday find an opportunity where he will be able to win.*

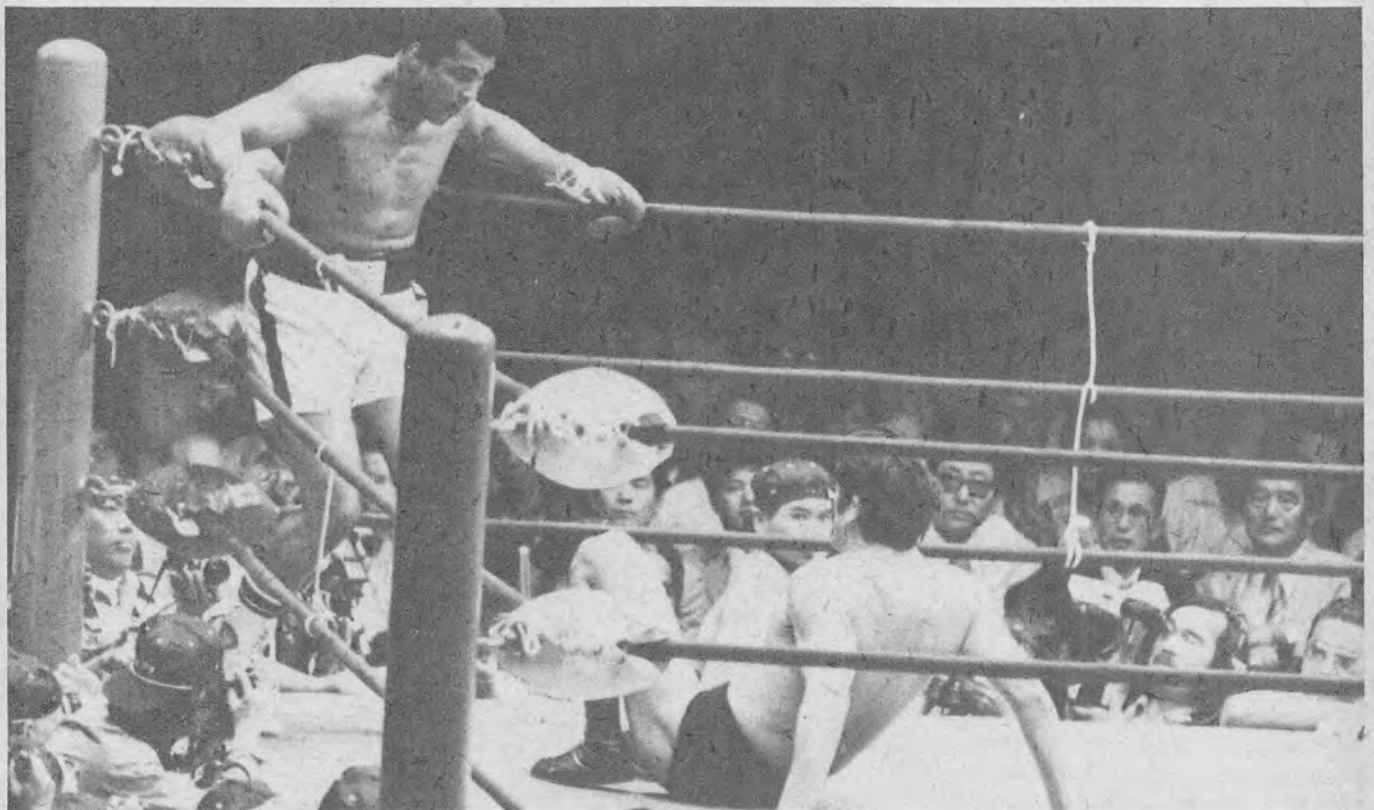
**Dusty Rhodes longs for Terry Funk's NWA title. However, Terry claims he can beat Dusty before the match even begins!**

**Inoki vs. Ali**  
**Andre vs. Wepner**

*Ali is forced into the ring corner (right) and is a helpless victim for Inoki's perfectly executed karate kicks (bottom)!*



# THE NIGHT THE CONQUERED



Two different styles of self-defense, two different matches, two different outcomes. Did the battles pitting a boxer against a wrestler prove anything? The answer to that question is obvious!



*Antonio lashes a perfect kick to Ali's left arm, making the boxer scream in pain. Even Ali's long reach couldn't help him compete with the legs of Inoki. Muhammad couldn't get close enough to punch Antonio!*



**T**HE EYES OF the world were focused on a square of canvas surrounded by ropes. For Muhammad Ali, it was a boxing ring. For Antonio Inoki, it was a wrestling ring. For both men, it was a battlefield.

Closed-circuit television screens all over the world were focused on this ring. A great boxer would go into combat against a great wrestler. Each man would defend the honor of his

# THE WRESTLERS THE BOXERS

PHOTOS BY KOICHI YOSHIZAWA

sport to the best of his ability.

The first man to enter the Tokyo stadium was Antonio Inoki. Most of the Japanese boxing fans favored their countryman. Cheers sounded from every throat. Equally loud were the cheers greeting Muhammad Ali, a respected citizen of the world. If the Japanese battler couldn't win, the crowd wouldn't be heartbroken. They would have seen one of the great athletes of all time score one more conquest.

Inoki knew he could slug it out with Ali. Yet no man on earth can trade punches with the heavyweight champion of the world and survive. While a boxer can only function on his feet, Inoki's body is trained to function while lying on the canvas. Both men knew the only real success could be had by bringing the other to the position where he couldn't function. Therefore, Ali wanted Inoki standing and Antonio wanted Muhammad on the canvas.

When the bell rang, Antonio went to the canvas near Ali, his long legs flicking at Ali like jabs. Ali tried to dance away from them, taunting Inoki to stand up. Antonio, too clever to be insulted into losing the match, remained where he was.

As the first round ended, Ali



*Above left: Inoki grabs Ali around the waist, forcing Muhammad to grab for the ropes. Above right: Inoki's karate kicks are so hard and accurate they force Ali to almost climb over the ring ropes!*

stormed angrily back to his corner. Inoki patiently went to his corner, assured of his eventual success.

The second round was a repetition of the first, only Inoki was more successful. He knew what had to be done and did it like an austere professional. Ali taunted and shouted, dared and threatened, but he couldn't penetrate Antonio's intelligence.

Again, Ali's legs were peppered by Inoki's kicks and Muhammad was confounded at every turn.

As the match wore on, Inoki's strategy proved more and more effective. Ali couldn't mount a sustained attack. Round after round, Inoki broke down Ali's assault and poise. The man was frustrated to the point of distraction; Ali spent a long portion of



*After a headbutt made Wepner woozy, Andre the Giant lifts his opponent high in the air (right) and throws him over the ropes. Lying on the grass, the boxer is unable to move (above).*

the match screaming at his far more cunning opponent.

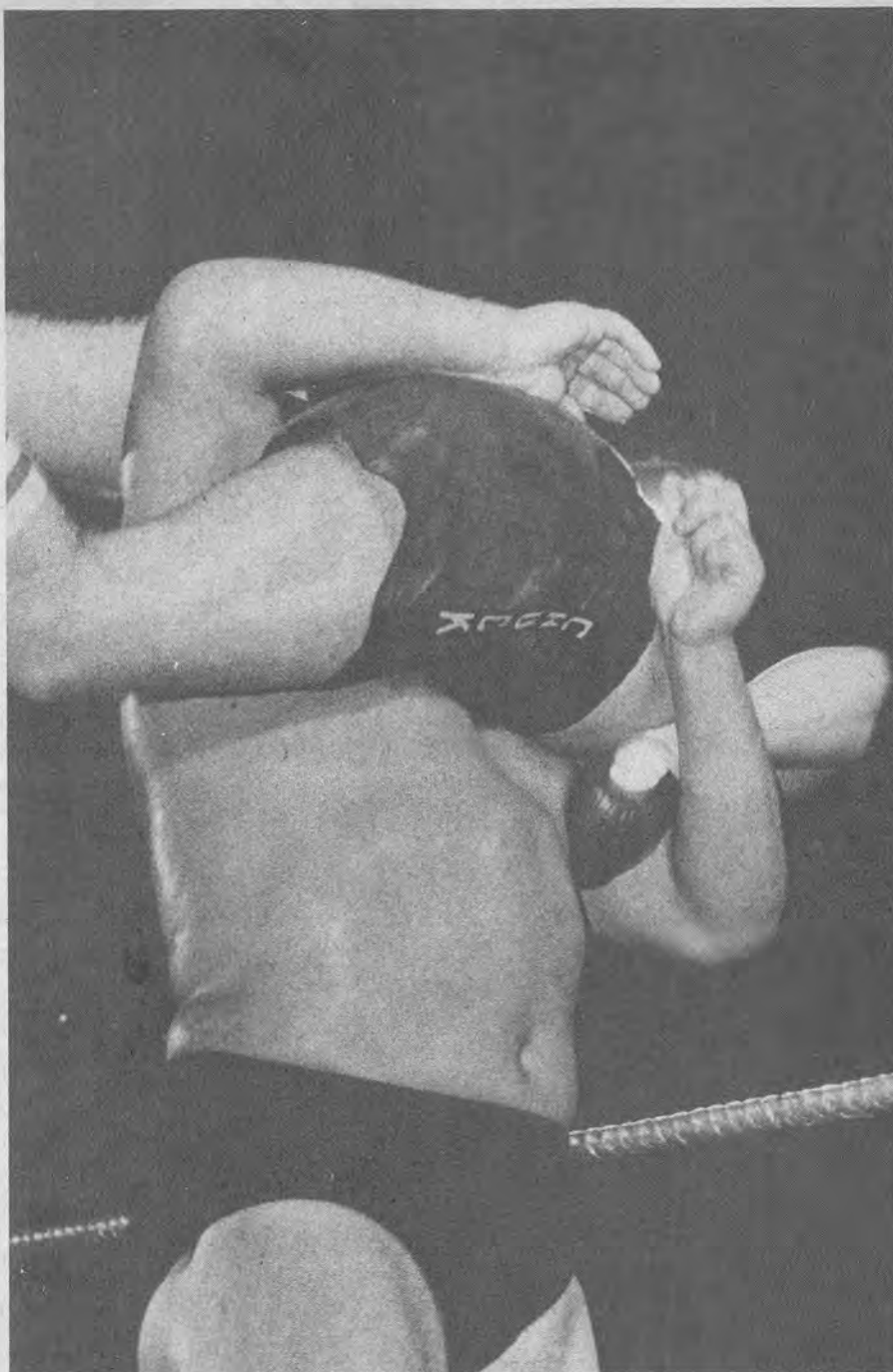
In the last rounds, Ali tried everything in his power to make Inoki commit a fatal mistake. However, the boxing king underestimated his wrestling opponent. With the patience of the ages, Inoki remained calm and racked up points.

Finally, the last bell sounded and the match was over. For 15 rounds, Inoki had slowly worn away Ali. It had been a slow, thorough, professional job by a brilliant mat tactician. All intelligent martial arts observers were awed by Inoki's genius.

Therefore, knowledgeable observers were shocked when the results were announced. For some unfathomable reason, the match was judged a draw! How anyone could give Ali more than two rounds is incomprehensible. Antonio Inoki might not have officially won, but the perceptive fan knows he deserved the victory.

There could be no question as to who won the other wrestler vs. boxer battle held that evening. In New York's Shea Stadium, Andre the Giant overwhelmed Chuck Wepner. The outcome was never in doubt.

From the first moment, it became evident Andre held the psychological advantage. Wepner walked into the stadium wearing headgear. He hoped to be able to keep it on during the match, making it impossible for Andre's headbutt to be effective. Naturally, the referee forced him to remove the illegal protection. Wepner tried to appear unconcerned after losing the argument, but one could tell he was very disturbed.



Chuck had every reason to be upset. Shorter, lighter, and less powerful than Andre, all Chuck had going for him was a slight advantage in speed. However, it didn't take Andre 30 seconds to neutralize that advantage. With the cunning of a veteran, Andre cut the ring on Wepner. Chuck had no place to go as Andre's perfect placement made it impossible for Wepner to move over more than one-half of the ring.

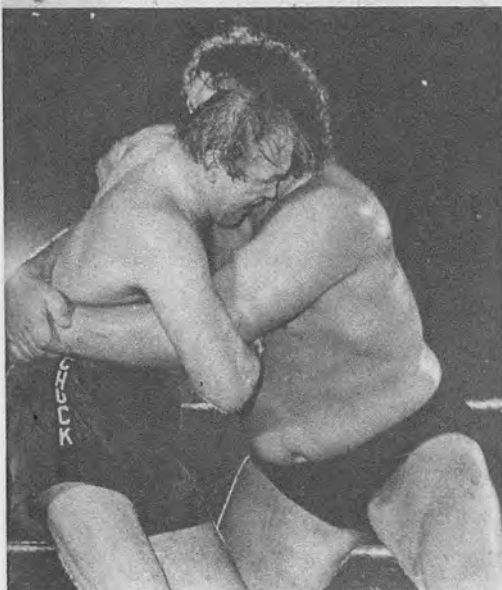
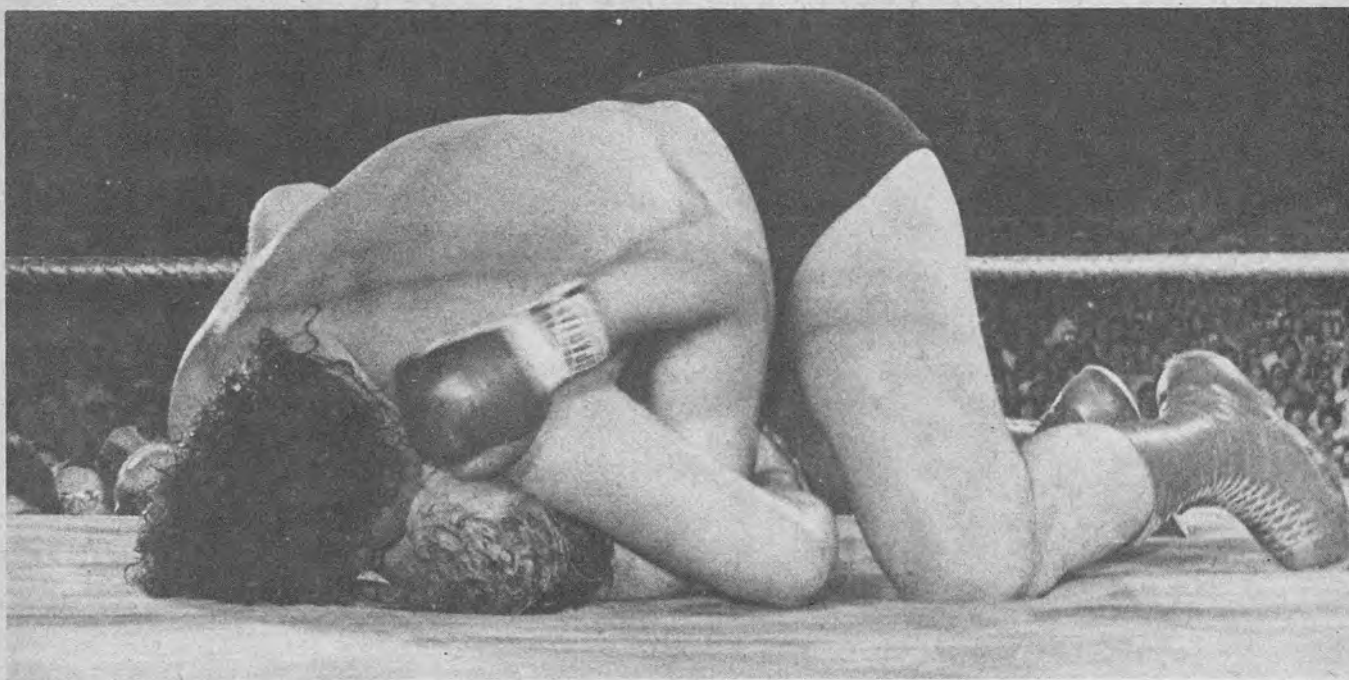
The first round proved Wepner knew he was in trouble. As Andre attacked, Chuck sought the safety of the ropes. Whenever he was in trouble—which was often—Wepner grabbed on to the restraints for dear life. Andre then had to let him free and Wepner

survived.

In the second round, Wepner tried to land some punches. However, his strength was unequal to the task of knocking Andre senseless. The gargantuan grappler simply shrugged off the blows and kept applying the pressure. Wepner continued to land blows to the body, but it was to no avail. Andre was just too powerful.

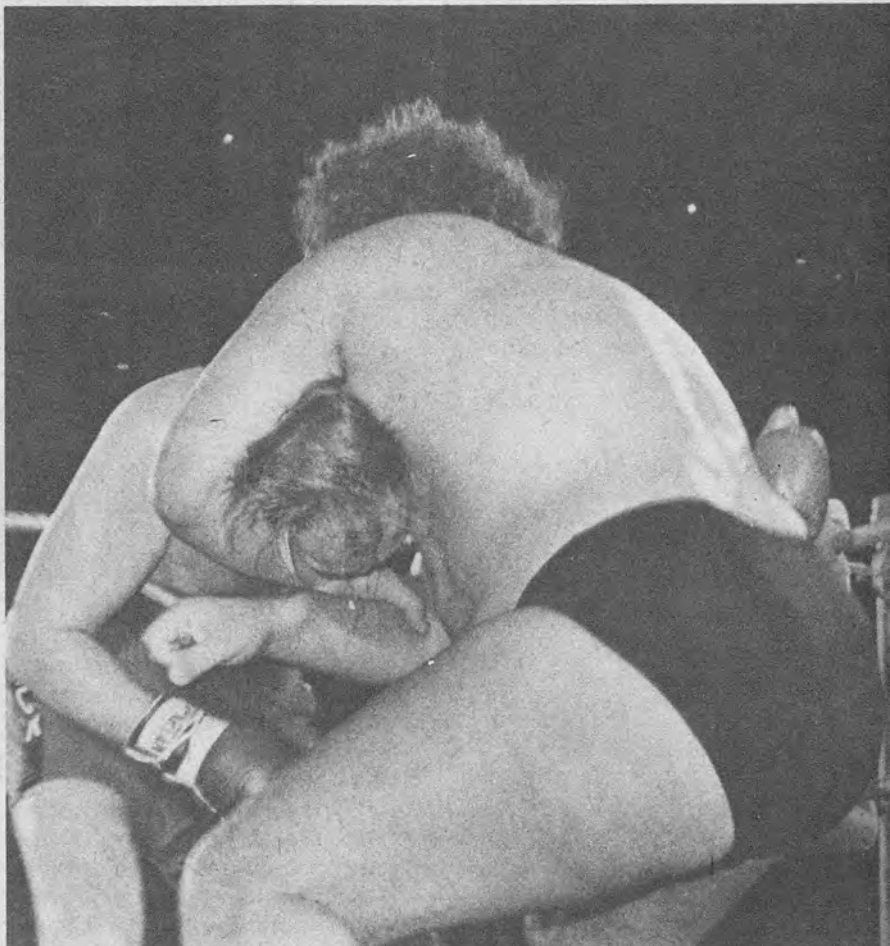
In the third round, the inevitable occurred. After Wepner had tried and failed to mount an attack, Andre pounded away with a headbutt. Wepner couldn't believe anything could hurt that much. The boxer stumbled backward, dazed and confused. He knew trouble was his destiny, he just didn't know how much.





*Top: Andre's gargantuan frame all but smothers Wepner as the giant goes for a pin early in the relatively short battle.*

*Above: Chuck struggles to get free of Andre's crushing and agonizing bearhug. By now, Andre dominated the encounter. Right: Andre's headlock is in perfect form and Wepner can do nothing but suffer its agony!*



Andre soon ended Chuck's nightmare by ending the match. The giant grabbed the weakened boxer and raised him high in the air. With a mighty heave, he threw Wepner over the ropes and sailing to the grass. Wepner hit the ground with a thud. They counted him out and the match was awarded to Andre.

As the match ended, Wepner's

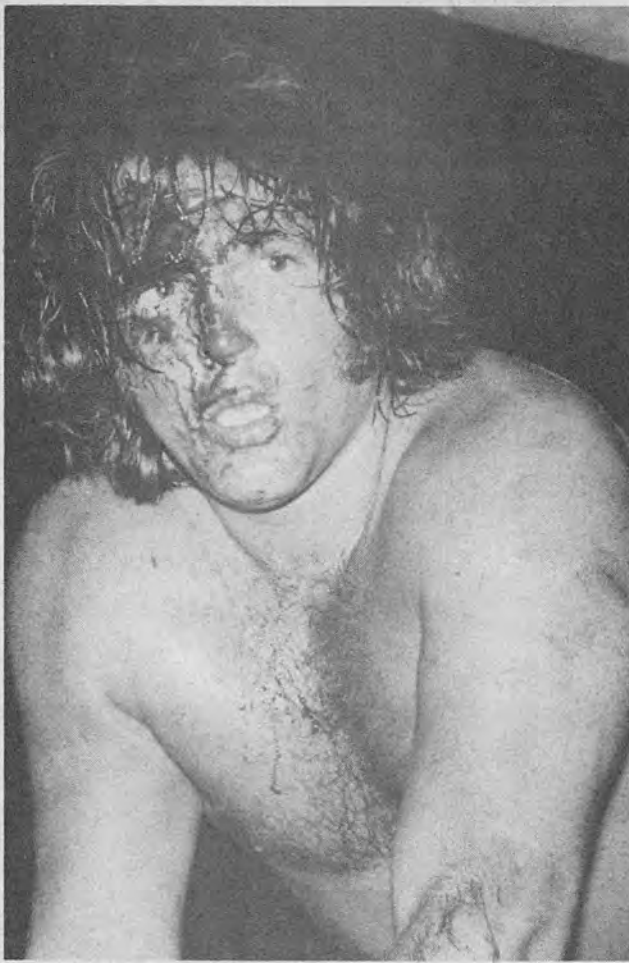
handlers rushed into the ring complaining that the headbutt was unfair and the count was too short. The referee merely ignored them and raised Andre's oak-like arm in victory.

Although the controversy of whether a boxer or a wrestler is the more effective is far from over, the evening saw wrestlers clearly the dominant battlers. The boxers proved

themselves to be confused and incapable of attacking men who refused to comply with their rules. It was a great night for the sport of wrestling.

Hopefully, more such matches will be held in the future. Then the controversy can be settled by comparing many different matches. If one evening is an indication, wrestlers will surely be the dominant winners. □

PHOTOS BY DON DELEON



*Steve Keirn is battered and bloody after his match against Bob Orton Jr. He had challenged Orton for the honor of the name of the Graham wrestling family!*

*A bloody Steve Keirn puts a headlock on Bob Orton Jr. late in this brutal match.*



# THE MAN WHO WOULD DIE FOR THE GRAHAMS

**A** MAN CHOOSES HIS enemies for many different reasons. Sometimes, his friends choose his enemies for him.

Steve Keirn is the sworn foe of the Ortons. The Ortons are determined to destroy the Grahams. Steve Keirn believes he owes the Grahams more than he can ever repay. The young man considers his career and life less than adequate sacrifices for the Grahams' kindness.

"When I needed them," Steve says, "they were there. I wouldn't be a wrestler if it wasn't for their aid and encouragement. When I was good, they praised me; when bad, they told me how to do better. The best of what I am is only a reflection of the Grahams' deep compassion and humanity.

"Whatever I can do to help them," Steve concludes, "will never be enough."

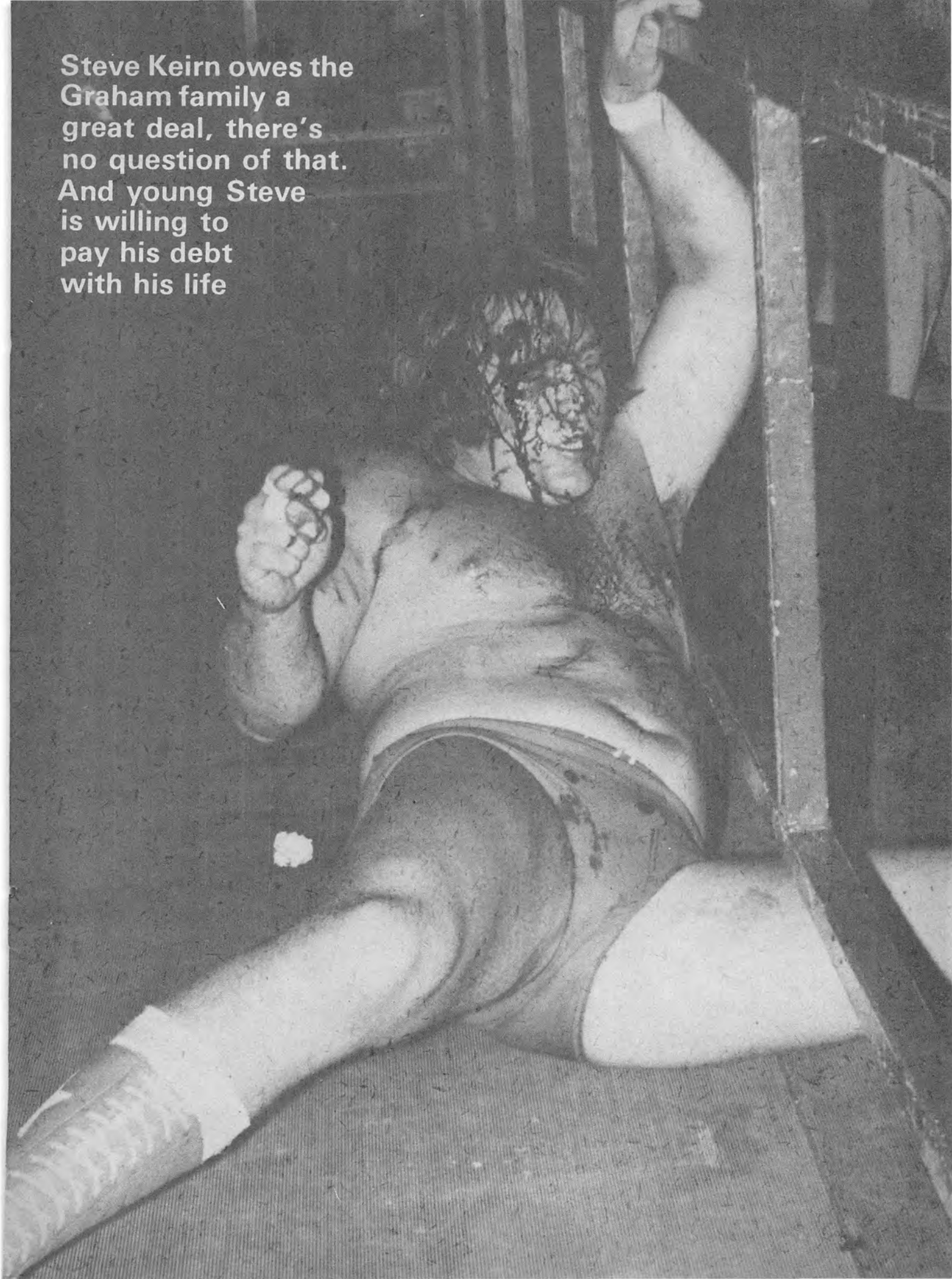
What Steve is attempting to do for his friends is help in their long war against the Ortons—Bob and Bob Jr. It's a dangerous task; either Orton is capable of ending a man's career. The Grahams have done everything in their power to convince Steve their battles should not be his. Keirn figures if he has enjoyed their good times, he should share their bad.

So, Steve Keirn challenged Bob Orton Jr. to wrestle. In the last few years, Orton Jr., formerly a scientific wrestler, has become a ferocious rulebreaker. Few can stand up to his repertoire of dirty

*(Continued on page 62)*

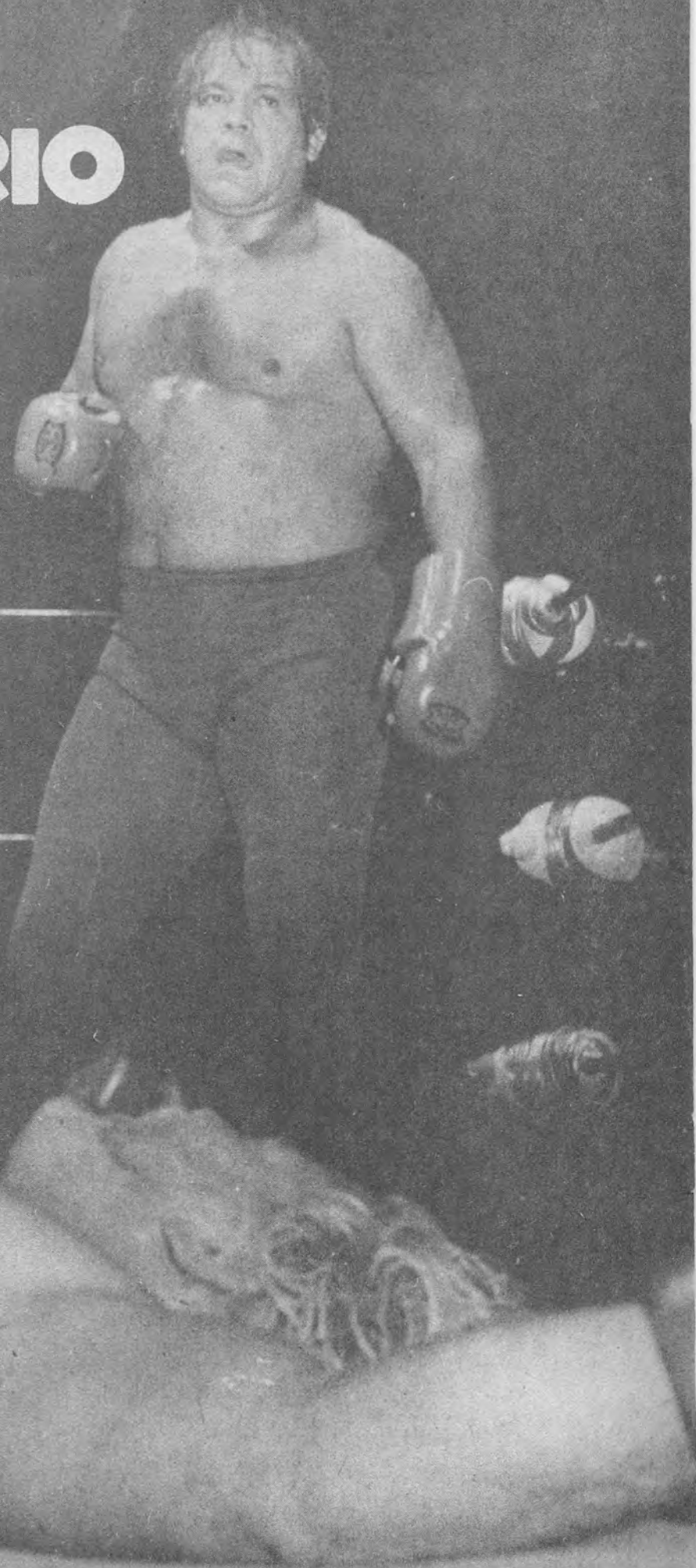


Steve Keirn owes the  
Graham family a  
great deal, there's  
no question of that.  
And young Steve  
is willing to  
pay his debt  
with his life



# JOSE LOTHARIO BEATS JIM DILLON AT HIS OWN GAME

PHOTOS BY JIM CALDWELL





## Jim Dillon thought he was a karate expert. He thought he could destroy Jose Lothario. Next time, Jim Dillon had better think twice!

**T**HE RED KARATE glove lay on the training table. Jose Lothario picked it up gingerly, examining the mitt for possible flaws. It was new and perfect. Jose dropped it back on the table and sat down beside it.

Usually a man in control of his nerves before a match, Jose squirmed nervously as he waited for the moment of decision. Lothario loves every instant of most matches. This one couldn't be over too soon.

There was a lot to think about before undertaking this match. Jose was going to meet Jim Dillon, his hated enemy, in a karate bout. Each man would wear professional karate gloves and battle for up to 10 three-minute rounds. If the match was to go all 10 rounds, it would be the longest professional karate match in history.

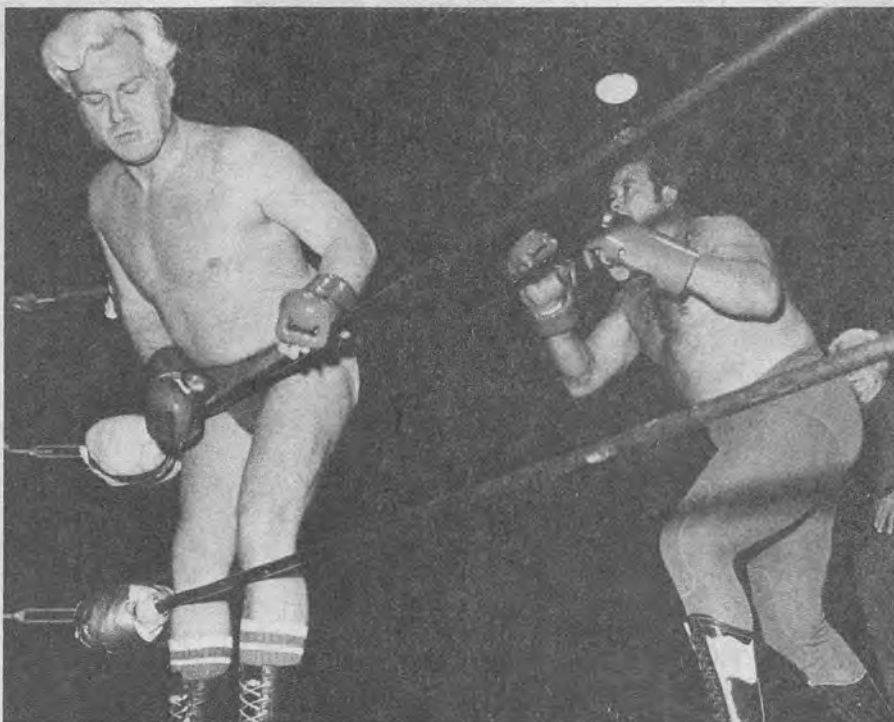
"Dillon says he's a karate expert," Jose said softly. "He says he is a man who knows a lot about the ways to knock a man senseless. He might not be lying. I wish I was lying about the fact I've only had a few lessons. Learned enough to know how much there is to learn!

"If Dillon is half as good as he says he is, then I could leave the arena on a stretcher. There's just so much I don't know. Yet, I have no choice but to take this bout."

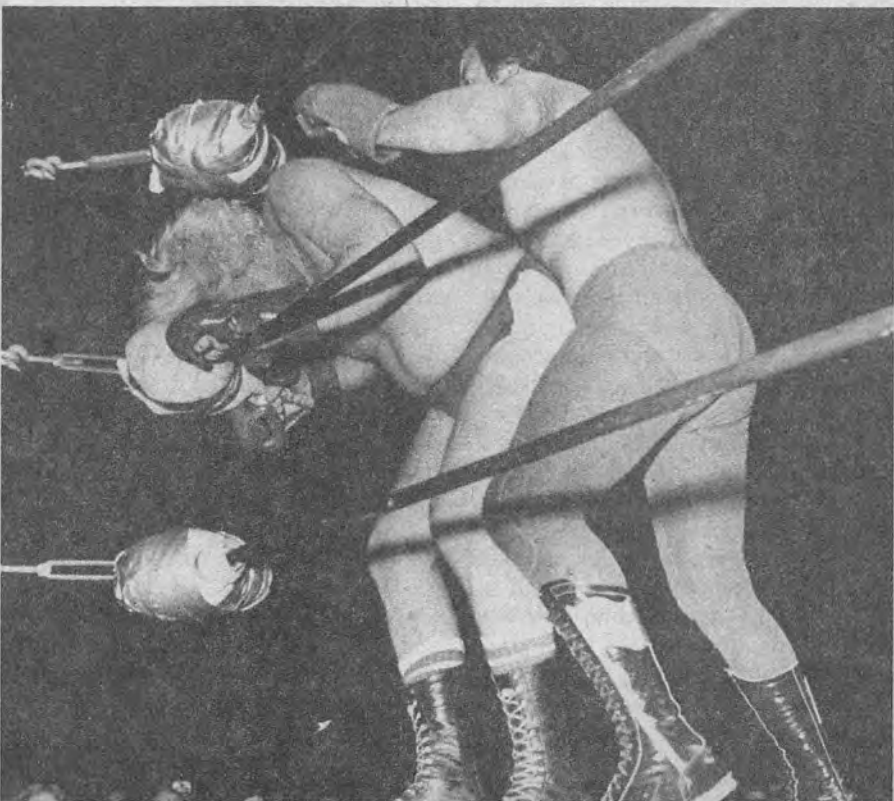
The reason forcing Lothario into this dangerous corner is his hatred for Dillon. Jim is not only a reprehensible grappler, but he is also an unscrupulous manager. His tactics and underlings have terrorized the Southwest. Someone had to prove they couldn't run roughshod over the area. Jose, a hero to all who know him, knew he had to be the man.

So, he challenged Dillon. With unconcealed glee, the manager accepted the contest on one condition—it would be a karate match. Jose knew little about the martial art. Dillon claimed to be more knowledgeable than anyone in the sport. He would only meet Jose knowing the odds were in his favor.

*(Continued on page 64)*



*Above: Jim Dillon is tempted to climb over the ropes to get out of the ring after being thoroughly thrashed by Jose Lothario. Below: Jose has Dillon in the corner and is ready to bring the hated man down to defeat. Jim thought he would have no trouble beating Jose in the match; Lothario proved Dillon was wrong in his thinking.*





# BOB BACKLUND: THE ROOKIE WHO WEARS A CHAMPIONSHIP BELT

PHOTOS BY CHIP MAXWELL

**B**Y ALL RIGHTS, a rookie should spend a few years working his way up through the ranks before he even has a chance of winning any kind of title. Almost every veteran wrestler will tell you this. And upon entering the sport professionally, most young rookies are told they have a long, hard road ahead on their way to champion status.

But if you say something like that to Bob Backlund, who is still a rookie, he might just laugh in your face.

It isn't that Backlund is rude—he always conducts himself like a gentleman—it's just Bob is a rookie who holds a very impressive title. Recently the young grappler surprised the entire wrestling community by winning the Missouri state championship from Harley Race, a veteran wrestler who once held the NWA world championship title. This feat is quite an accomplishment for the still young backlund.

Ever since he made his professional debut, Bob Backlund has been generating excitement among wrestling fans whereas he goes. Spectators cheer loudly every time he walks into an arena. Many veterans have begun to fear the young man, feeling they will go down to certain defeat if they are matched against him.

Because of his growing popularity—coupled with the growing list of opponents he has defeated—Backlund was given a shot at Race's Missouri

state title. Harley did not believe the young rookie even had a remote chance of winning. He was proven to be entirely incorrect.

The night Bob won the title from Race, the fans went wild. They knew Bob could do it. And no one was more surprised than Harley Race. Here he was, a man who had won the NWA title from Dory Funk Jr. To be defeated by a mere rookie was almost disgraceful to Harley. However, there really is no shame in being beaten by a wrestler as good as Bob Backlund.

Of course, someone had to tell Roger Kirby the same thing. Soon after Bob had won the title from Race, he placed it on the line against Kirby. And Roger, like Harley Race, thought he would win easily over the young rookie.

But that match solidly proved Bob Backlund had not won his title by a fluke of luck. Against Kirby, Bob displayed a remarkable show of talent and ability. And Roger Kirby is not an opponent to be taken lightly.

One wrestling observer who witnessed the clash between Backlund and Kirby, Charles Granata, described it like this: "I really was impressed by

Bob Backlund. From the beginning of the match it was obvious he was going to beat Kirby.

"There were a few moments when Roger Kirby had control over Backlund. But Bob was able to recover from any maneuvers Kirby may have tried on him. It was remarkable!"

"Bob Backlund is really good. There's no telling where he can go from here. After all, he is Missouri state champion. The next logical step is for him to have a shot at the world title. Now that is something I would really like to see."

The speculation Granata made about a world championship for Bob is echoed by several other fans. It is extremely difficult for any rookie to have a chance at that kind of title. But in Bob Backlund's case, things may be different.

Since he now holds the Missouri title, he is in an excellent position to be a challenger for a title. State championships mean quite a bit in the world title sweepstakes. The question is, will Bob be allowed a shot at the title, thus skipping the usual years of waiting for such a chance? Could Bob be catapulted to instant fame because



**He's an inexperienced rookie,  
yet he's a champion. His  
fame is spreading, yet to  
most he's still an unknown  
quantity. Here is the  
enigma called  
Bob Backlund**

*Right: Backlund  
has a hammerlock  
on Roger Kirby.  
Below: Both Bob and  
Kirby are sent into  
the air with a whip.  
Bottom: Bob puts an armlock  
on Roger in early action.*



of his amazing abilities?

It would be difficult to find agreement among wrestling experts about these questions. Backlund has impressed many people in the right places. There can be no denying his state championship is an important consideration. And many wrestling fans enthusiastically support the idea of Bob Backlund as a world champion.

But there are many others in the sport who would violently disagree. While they will acknowledge Backlund's talents, they feel he should wait, take time to develop his talents, and come back in a few years to have a shot at the world title. To these people, Bob's remarkable talents and amazing abilities do not count in terms of championship chances. They seem to

feel that experience is all that counts.

So where does Bob go from this point? He will have to continue defending his state title. And he will probably begin a campaign to be allowed a chance at a world title. It seems to be only fitting.

If there is any rookie with a chance to win a world title, that rookie would be Bob Backlund! □

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## HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING, BABY

(Continued from Page 8)

boasts. "I've beaten him 20 times and each time he comes back cryin' for more. Rhodes, I hope you read this. I am sick and tired and frankly bored silly beating you so often. Leave me alone. Go to a rest home, where you belong."

The big question around wrestling is will Muhammad Ali get a match against Bruno Sammartino for the WWWF title. Fred Blassie, Ali's wrestling manager, says, "Sammartino is too scared to wrestle or box or have a mixed match against Ali." Bruno has stated, "anytime, any place, under any conditions." Looks like it's your move again, Freddie.

Pampero Firpo inventing a new maneuver to "ruin Baron Von Raschke's career" . . . Kitty Adams looking for another shot at Fabulous Moolah's title . . . Paul Jones in a rut, unable to get the U.S. title away from Blackjack Mulligan . . . Butcher Vachon teaming with Chavo Guerrero in California. Hard to believe? You bet it is—but it's true! . . . Jose Lothario and Peter Maivia hoping to form a tag team. They're working out in a Texas gym . . . Greg Valentine feuding with Mike Graham in Florida.

The response our office has been getting to our "Win A Mil Mascaras Mask" contest in our sister magazine INSIDE WRESTLING is phenomenal. Thousands of entries have already arrived and each has been shipped off to Mascaras who'll choose the final winner. The lucky winner will be announced soon in an upcoming issue of INSIDE WRESTLING.

Tony Parisi and Louis Cerdan have gone their separate ways for the time being. "We'll come back east someday soon and win our tag team belts back," says Tony . . . Bruiser and Crusher at war with Jim Kent and his Bounty Hunters . . . Referee Dick Kroll, active regularly with the WWWF, is guest refereeing in California and Texas for the NWA . . . "Pistol" Pez Wheatley, Tommy Seigler and The Islanders thrilling UWA fans . . . Doug Gilbert signed with WWWF promoters.

**Nostalgic Notes**—Buddy Rogers was a champion who wrestled both scientific and rulebreaking opponents. Killer Kowalski, Rocca and Johnny Valentine were just some of the men he stopped—all different styles but Buddy handles 'em . . . Cowboy Bob Ellis made his debut in New York City

in the early '60s. In his very first match at the old Madison Square Garden, he toppled Sky Hi Kruger in less than one minute . . . Mark Lewin and Don Curtis were the favorites of gals all over the world during the mid 60s . . . In that same era The "Big O," Bob



*Pampero Firpo (above) is ready to ruin Baron Von Raschke. Mil Mascaras jumps the ropes (below).*



Orton, was toting his son around from arena to arena " 'cause the kid loved wrestling." Bob's son is a top wrestler in his own right—Bob Orton Jr. . . . A youngster, virtually unknown, Pedro Morales, was in the first preliminary match against Willie Bath the night Bruno Sammartino won the WWWF heavyweight title from Buddy Rogers in 1963.

Bruno Sammartino has never said he's deeply hated anyone. That's why it was a shock just a few days before his return clash against Stan Hansen at Shea Stadium to see him on television, snarling and bitter.

"I hate Stan Hansen more than anything!" exploded the usually calm and placid Sammartino. "I hate him as much as the devil in hell. I don't merely want to cripple him, I'm so mad I want to kill this animal!"

And that's what's happening, baby!"





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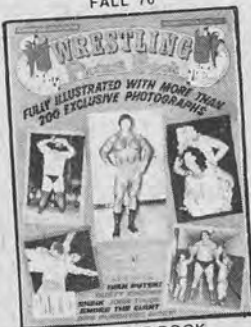
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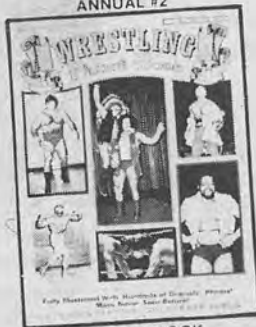
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## YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from Page 10)

challenger for the title. Nick, if you had any sense, you would realize Verne Gagne is still the best.

**MARK MERRITT**  
Fitzgerald, Ga.

### BRISCO THE BEST

I am writing in regard to the letters David Cox and John Bound wrote insulting Jack Brisco. Almost everytime the Brisco brothers battle the Funk brothers, the Briscos win.

Almost everytime the Briscos challenge the Funks, the Funks try to run, and it is happening again—Terry is running from Jack. Jack will catch up with him one day and beat him. Terry is a coward and a bum. Go get him, Jack. We all love you.

**TERRY McCALL**  
Altamonte Springs, Fla.

### IVAN WOULD NEVER

I think the story about "The Court Case that Can Destroy Ivan Putski" (THE WRESTLER/June 1976) is disgusting. You are nuts thinking Ivan Putski would ever bring an object into the ring. The only object he needs is his body. His objects are his muscles.

Bugsy McGraw is one of the meanest wrestlers there is; he is also one of the stupidest. He can't wrestle. Bugsy is just a big jerk. "Polish Power" will overpower "Sick Power."

Bugsy is the one who brought the object into the ring. He needs it — he can't wrestle. He is too dumb. I can't stand him. Ivan is the greatest wrestler around.

**HOWARD SCOTT**  
Saugerties, N.Y.

### MORE THAN HE DESERVED

Your story, "The Million Dollar Rookie Is Taught a Million Dollar Lesson" (THE WRESTLER/June 1976), was just what I have wanted to see for a long time. I've been waiting for somebody to put down that Chavo Guerrero. Ernie Ladd was just the man to do it.

I sincerely hope Chavo learned something from the "King of Wrestling." He needs to be taught he can't beat men like Ernie Ladd.

**LANIE WOLFFE**  
Irvine, Calif.

### THE SHEIK IS THE ONE

I think there is one wrestler who should be champion of every federation there is—this is the great Sheik!

The Sheik is a superb being. He is muscular, fast, proud, and much, much more. He wastes his valuable time entertaining people who just boo him. Whoever watches his matches should consider himself lucky to be able to watch such a fantastic legend.

**KEVIN VAN DYCK**  
Cass Lake, Minn.



*Mil Mascaras may have it rough against Larry Heinime, but the fans still know the masked mat star is one of the greatest!*

### A TRIBUTE TO MASCARAS

I just finished reading your story, "The Match that Shames Mil Mascaras" (THE WRESTLER/June 1976), and I felt I had to comment. Your article reflected perfectly the pride and honor we have all come to associate with the masked Mexican grappler.

Of course Mil would offer the spectators their money back in that situation. His pride demands actions like that. However, the reaction of the fans was just as expected. Even at his worst, Mil Mascaras is one of the best wrestlers around today.

But your story served to prove just how great a human being this man really is. I don't think there is another wrestler who so prides himself in how he appears before the fans. No other man can carry off such a move with the same amount of dignity. Mil Mascaras is truly a giant among men, and he deserves any praise we can give him.

Any sport would be honored to have a man like Mil Mascaras in it. All wrestling fans are lucky he chose the mat wars for his career.

**BILL ALLEN**  
Lancaster, Penn. □



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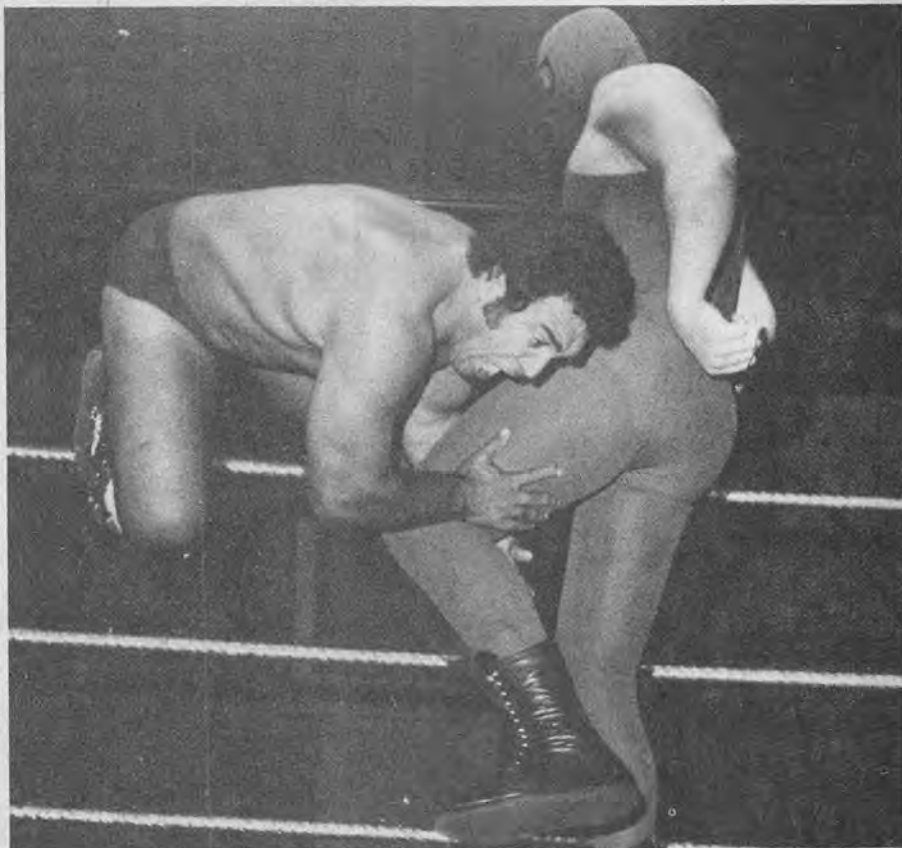
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# THE EXECUTIONERS

(Continued from Page 22)



*For a while it looked like Billy White Wolf would be able to win over The Executioner's savagery (above and left). However, soon enough he also fell victim to the cruelty of this vicious team. Is there any way to bring an end to the vicious tactics of The Executioners? We can only hope there will soon be an end to their ugly reign!*

we're better than their cheating.

"A lot of people said they didn't deserve to be given a title shot. They said their cheating shouldn't be rewarded. But as champions, it was our responsibility to stop them. We had to find a way to stop Albano from helping them. And we had to find a way to beat those guys—disregarding their rotten tactics, they happen to be great athletes."

If they were great athletes," Louis Cerdan countered, "they wouldn't

need Albano. Let's not give the rats more credit than they deserve. The Executioners are no more than average wrestlers, capable at times of being almost good. The real difference is Albano and his cheating.

"I was against giving them a shot, but Tony insisted. They're a blight who should never be given a title shot; it gives them too much respectability. They should be treated like outsiders, kept from polluting the mainstream. They didn't earn anything! When



Albano stops interfering for them, then they should be given a shot. Now, they're champions. Now, it's too late to keep them separate. They're now on the inside and we're all out! And they're going to make sure we stay out!"

Louis had a right to be bitter. The title was stolen from him and Parisi. And both men know how difficult it is to take the title from a team that doesn't care how it wins.

The first Executioner title defense proved just how vicious this team could be. It was an ugly exhibition of wrestling savagery. The challengers (victims) were Jose Gonzales and Billy White Wolf, two determined and skilled grapplers. They bring honor to any event. But dignity is rarely a match for the Executioners' cruelty.

Within minutes, it became obvious Gonzales and White Wolf could never stoop to The Executioners' level. With Albano by their side, the pair pulled every sleazy trick in the book to win. For those who want to know what dirty wrestling is all about, simply get a film of the match. It's all there. Albano was never better, interfering with sly effectiveness.

Gonzales and White Wolf battled valiantly but couldn't overcome the concentrated effort of the three men. Though the crowd cheered the brave pair onward, it couldn't give the duo the ability to conquer. The Executioners and Albano may be too brutal for any team.

Finally, it was over and The Executioners retained their title. Gonzales and White Wolf walked slowly back to the dressing room, not exactly sure what had happened. When wrestlers have nightmares, they must be of matches like these.

The Executioners were very pleased with themselves after the match. They had shown the WWF just what to expect from them. It was a warning to any and all challengers: meet The Executioners and risk being crippled. They are too cunning to be shackled by rules and too cruel to care about mercy; proceed at your own risk. Any trespassers into their territory would be persecuted to the full extent of The Executioners' brutality.

The WWF tag team champions are The Executioners, managed by Lou Albano. That's a statement one may be seeing for a long time. And as long as it's true, tag team wrestling in the WWF will be dominated by the most reprehensible trio to be seen in a long time. ☐

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# THE BLOODBATH THE FA

(Continued from Page 27)

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Above: Several other wrestlers had to come to the aid of both of the vicious brawlers to end this match. Below: Nothing was ruled out as a weapon—even chains—if it could cause serious injury.



None of the crowd seemed disturbed by the thought Sheik and Abdullah were human beings during the match. It was just punishment for the pair, as far as these fans were concerned. Of course, there were exceptions.

Shaking in a corner, another spectator, Jesse Ritchie, sat staring into space. He had seen something which had terrified him. He'd

glimpsed the ugliest depth of his soul.

"I can't believe I enjoyed it so much" Jesse said over and over again. "I wanted them to kill each other. Every gash made me happier. That's... disgusting!"

"There's a difference between cheering a favorite and cheering people killing each other. You can reward someone who does some-



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thing well. If the other guy gets hurt, it's part of the game. But when all you want to see is pain, then something's wrong.

"I've been waiting for over a month to watch these two guys try to kill each other," Ritchie concluded, "and I've never been so ashamed of myself."

As might be expected, neither Sheik nor Abdullah cared about the crowd. All that concerned them was how badly the other man had been injured. In a way, they were like the crowd. Yet, how many in the crowd would like to know Sheik and Abdullah are like them?

There are more than enough reasons for banning Sheik and Abdullah from wrestling. Their list of victims is sadly chilling; memories of massacres burn in every fan's mind. They're a blight on the sport. Every time they're defeated by decent wrestlers, it's a victory for the sport's integrity.

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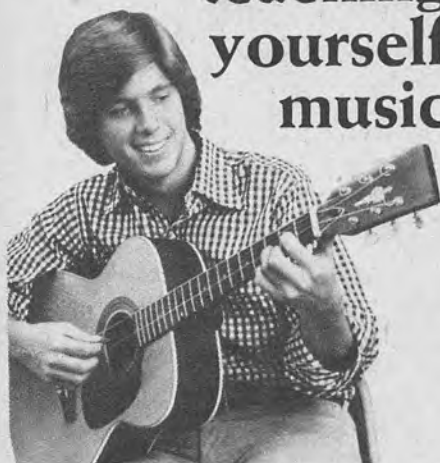
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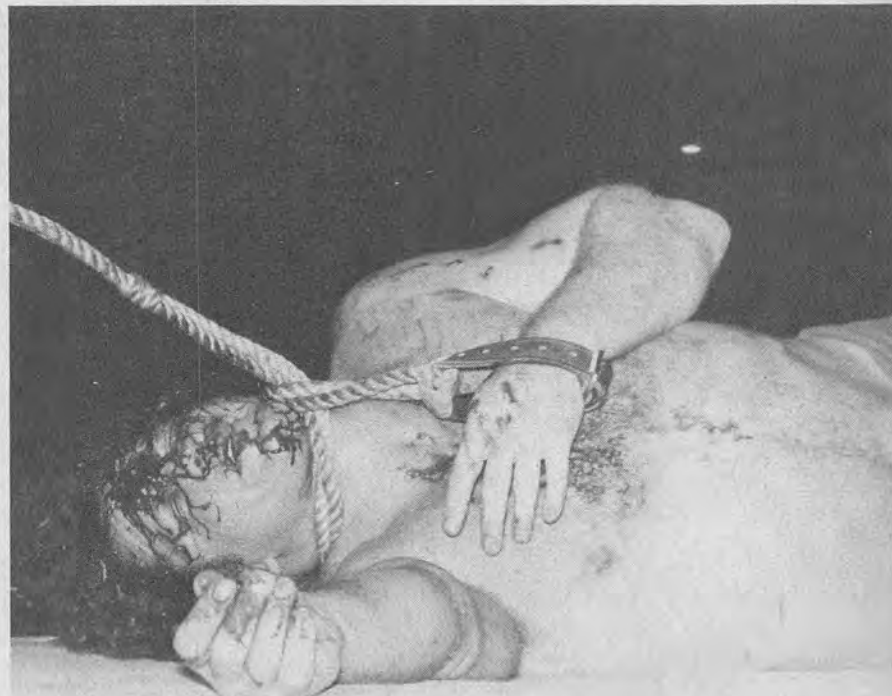
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## "RHODES WILL NEVER WIN MY TITLE!"

(Continued from Page 39)



A bloody and tired Dusty Rhodes has just about finished off the NWA champion, Terry Funk, in the bull rope match (above). Even after it was all over, Terry was too battered and blood-soaked to get up off the canvas. He needed help back to the dressing room.



championship match.

The fans waited expectantly in the arena for the match to begin; they knew this was going to be a different kind of match. Dusty's legion of fans shouted its approval for "The American Dream" as he entered the arena. Terry's fans, just

as vocal though somewhat fewer in number, gave a similar ovation when the NWA champion made his appearance.

Before the match started, the referee explained how this match was to work. He showed the spectators the bull rope that was to be



used to tie up the loser. It looked dangerous to many members of the audience. A wrestler could easily be choked by the weapon.

Though this match was Dusty's idea, it was Terry who first took control during the battle. Within a matter of minutes, Funk had used the rope to bloody the area around Rhodes' eyes and forehead. Soon, Terry had the bull rope tied around Dusty's neck. For a few moments, it appeared "The American Dream" was going to lose at his own game. That quickly changed.

As Funk was preparing to finish Dusty off, Rhodes displayed a sudden burst of strength, and broke free of Terry's hold. A few seconds later, Dusty had the bull rope, and he was bloodying Funk with the weapon!

From that moment on, Rhodes dominated the action. Soon Terry was a study in scarlet, blood trickling down his face, across his chest, and onto the canvas.

Finally, Dusty was able to subdue Funk long enough to slip the rope around the champion's neck. With Terry down on the mat, Dusty managed to tie the rest of the rope around the champion, thus winning the match. Dusty was immediately happy. Then Terry, from his prone position, reminded the "American Dream" his victory was a hollow one; after all, it had been a non-title match.

As Rhodes was climbing out of the ring, Terry shouted to him, "Don't you go thinking you'll be getting a title match now. No way, buddy!"

Dusty was furious, but there was nothing he could do. Terry Funk held all the cards as champion. Rhodes would be lucky if he was ever dealt in at all.

In his dressing room, Dusty told reporters, "Terry Funk will be forced, somehow, to give me a chance at the title. This time, I won't let him use his crafty little tricks to outsmart me. I won't let him get himself disqualified. I will get Terry Funk's belt! No one—and that includes Terry Funk—is going to stop me from winning a championship!"

For the time being, it looks like Terry's prediction may be true. He just may not let Rhodes have a chance at the title. So far, no one is quite sure what is going to happen next. □

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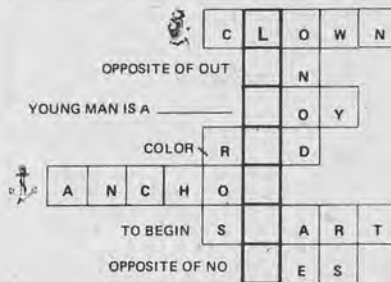
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## YOU ASKED US

(Continued from Page 18)

claims Koloff is lying. "He knows that never happened and he knows he can never beat me."

**Q:** Is Killer Brooks a member of Jim Dillon's army?—Peter Yarbrough, Houston, Texas

**A:** Brooks likes to think of Dillon as an "advisor" rather than an actual manager. "I like to manage my own affairs," notes Brooks.

**Q:** Will "Kangaroo" Al Costello ever wrestle on the same team as his protege, The UWA Spoiler?—Mark Jakuszi, Nashville, Tennessee

**A:** "Perhaps," Costello shrugged. "I am more interested in being the brains for my protege rather than supplying him with extra muscle."

**Q:** Is it true Crusher Verdu was once managed by Beautiful Bruce Swaysze?—Hector Tonka, San Francisco, California

**A:** Yes, it's true. When Verdu was wrestling in upstate New York and Ohio, Swaysze managed him. He was also managed by Captain Lou Albano while in WWF territory.

**Q:** Is Bulldog Brower Mil Mascaras' toughest opponent?—Nancy Brange, Columbia, South Carolina

**A:** "He's one of my toughest opponents," Mil stressed. "There are several others—men like Ivan Koloff, The Destroyer and Ernie Ladd. All these have given me some of my roughest moments."



*Killer Brooks (above) says he is "advised" by Lord Al Hays. Chief Jay Strongbow (below) says he's proud to have fan respect.*



**Q:** What does Chief Jay Strongbow consider his greatest accomplishment?—Stan Weisman, Providence, Rhode Island

**A:** "Gaining the respect of the fans," said Strongbow. "I love the people and I'm overjoyed they feel the same way about me."

**Q:** Will Jose Lothario get a rematch against NWA champion Terry Funk?—Miguel Juarez, Mexico City, Mexico

**A:** "I certainly hope so," Jose said. "I wrestled him a few times but he kept the belt each time on technicalities." □



*Reader Hector Tonka wrote in to ask if Crusher Verdu (above) was ever managed by Beautiful Bruce Swaysze. He once was.*



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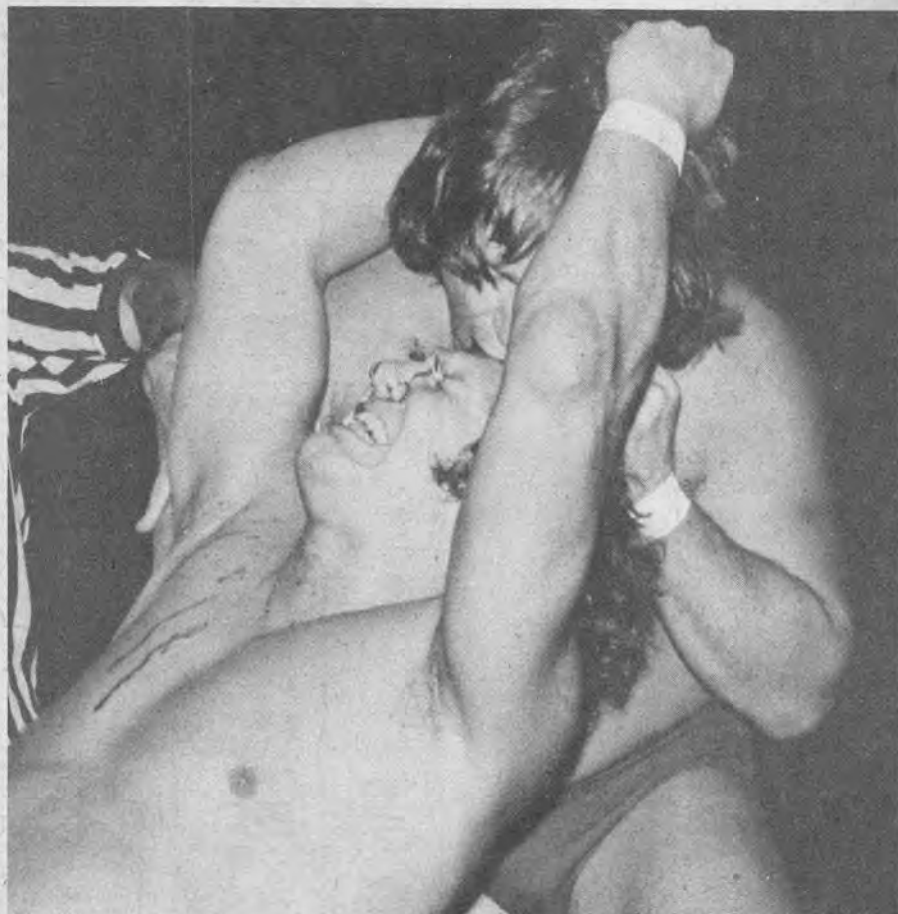
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# DIE FOR THE GRAHAMS

(Continued from Page 44)



*Above: Steve Keirn decides to fight fire with fire as he bites the forehead of Bob Orton Jr. Left: As the action spills outside of the ring, Orton pounds away at Keirn's bloody face. Steve Keirn feels he owes the Grahams everything—even his life!*



tricks. Broken bodies are common among men who have grappled against him. To tempt Bob into a grudge match is inviting disaster.

The Grahams, especially young Mike, tried to talk Steve out of taking the match. Though they talked far into the night, nothing could change Steve's mind.

"He can be more stubborn than a mule in heat," Mike revealed later. "Steve is putting himself in need-

less danger. The Grahams can always take care of their own battles; no one need risk himself on our account. It is a very foolish but brave thing for Steve to do.

"What he doesn't realize is the anguish he's causing us. Naturally, we're worried about our close friend getting hurt. My father, Eddie, fears for him all the time. I guess I do also. And if he does get hurt, we won't be able to forgive ourselves."



Mike was asked if he would come to Keirn's aid if Bob Orton Sr. interfered in the match.

"If anyone interferes," he vowed, "I'll break him in half. And my father feels the same way."

On the night of the match, Bob Orton Jr. was tensely serious as he slipped into his wrestling trunks. The young man is all business when it comes to grudge matches, especially those inspired by the Grahams. No one had to tell Bob the consequences of his not being able to pulverize Keirn; anyone wishing to ingratiate themselves with the popular Grahams would use the Ortons as targets. That could end anyone's career way before its time.

"I'm battling for my life tonight," Bob declared before the match, "and there are no rules in that battle. It's survival of the fittest—or meanest. I've got to make sure every man in wrestling will be terrified of suffering what Keirn suffers tonight. He's going to be an example of what happens to someone who messes with the Ortons!"

The two men strode slowly into the arena. Their bodies were hard and tense and involuntary shudders could be seen. They were two young men ready to explode.

With the sound of the bell came the explosion. They flew at each other like guided missiles, pounding and tearing. This wasn't wrestling; it was something one sees on the street late at night. They were wild and reckless, brutal and ugly. Both men were soon bleeding. Pain and exhaustion made their movements sluggishly grotesque.

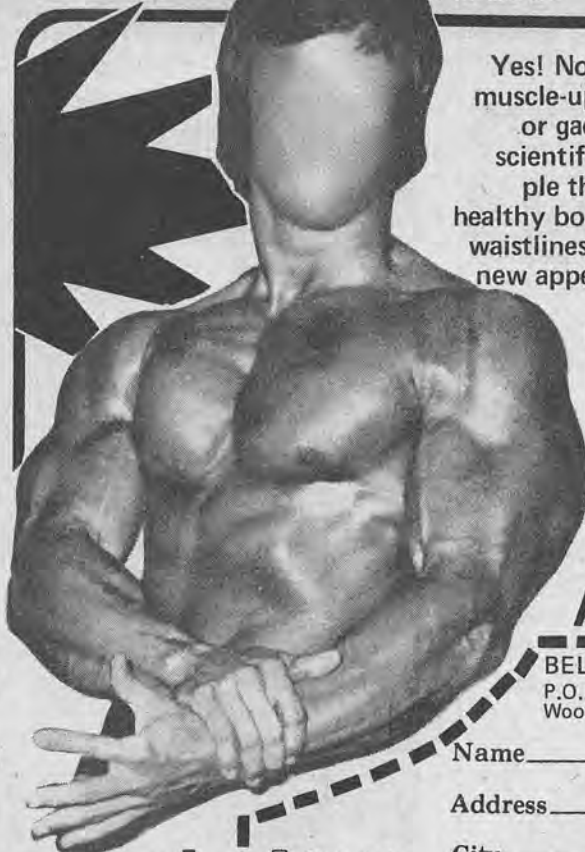
Slowly but surely, Orton took control. He was the meaner and crueler; those were the qualities needed in this match for victory. Fans were shrieking for the match to be halted. Keirn had suffered enough.

Finally, the referee stopped the brawl. The official decision was Steve was bleeding too badly to continue. The match, which had spilled over the ropes, bloodstained the canvas, and tortured two raging athletes, was ended.

In the dressing room, both Grahams hovered over Steve as eight stitches were sewn into his scalp. Dizzy from the pain, he had to be taken home by Mike and Eddie. Once again, the Grahams had helped Steve in his weakness.

Once again, Steve Keirn swore to drive the Ortons from wrestling. ☐

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## JOSE LOTHARIO

(Continued from Page 47)



*For a while, it looked as if Dillon would easily win this karate match. But Jose Lothario quickly reversed things; soon he had Jim begging to end this display of savagery. It will be a long time before Dillon even thinks of challenging Jose Lothario again!*

Lothario had to meet Dillon any way possible.

"I've concentrated on defense," the brave mat star revealed before the match. "For offense, my wrestling skills will have to hold me. Of course, they've done pretty well by me so far. If I get a couple of breaks early on, I know I can win this thing. And the disgrace of losing will destroy Dillon's reputation—or at least hurt it enough so others won't be scared."

Jose then fell silent and no one dared to force more words from him. The grappler had to search within himself to find the courage to defeat his foe, an opponent who had every advantage.

Boisterous laughter filled the air in Dillon's dressing room. Jim was celebrating a victory he had yet to win.

"The only tough part," he

announced, "was getting Lothario to accept the match. Once that happened, I knew I'd win. There's no way he could possibly beat me in a karate match. This is going to be like taking candy from a sleeping baby. After the bout, I'll be giving away pieces of Lothario as souvenirs!

"After I destroy Lothario, let the word go out for all to hear: Jim Dillon owns the southwest's wrestling. Dillon is supreme! I am supreme!"

Dillon's eyes were wild with powerlust as he walked through the ring ropes and faced Lothario. Jose was trying to feel comfortable in the karate gloves, so he didn't bother to return Dillon's gaze. The bulky mitts would never feel really comfortable to Jose, even if he wore them for years.

However, the moment the bell



rang, it was Dillon who felt uncomfortable. Jose leapt at his opponent and battered Jim with a vengeance. It might not have been great karate, but it was damned effective! Jim never got his bearings for a moment during his three minute ordeal. He barely survived to the round's conclusion. The fans were delighted and Jose was stunned. Who expected it would be this easy?

Dillon spoke to the referee between rounds and then the official consulted Lothario. Then came the announcement, "At the request of Jim Dillon, the karate gloves will be worn on only alternate rounds."

Dillon had figured the gloves would make him a sure winner.



*A battered, beaten Jim Dillon is ready to give up the battle and flee back to the relative safety of his dressing room.*

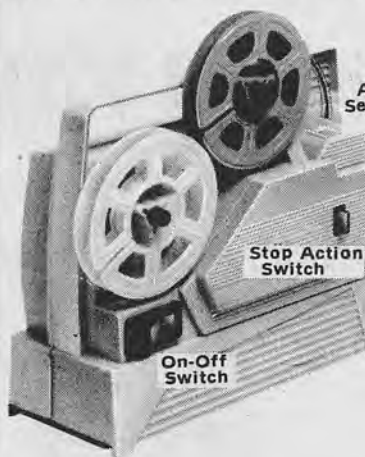
Now be begged to take them off! His advantage had disappeared because of Lothario's determination! Jose, sensing victory, made the second round a living hell for Dillon. The bell rescued Dillon a second time.

Karate gloves were donned for the third round. Within a minute, Dillon had been knocked out of the ring twice. He considered going back for a third time and then considered fleeing to the dressing room. Taking the safer option, Dillon beat a hasty retreat.

Jose Lothario had won a match most thought he couldn't survive. All the fans shouted hysterically. All decent grapplers breathed a sigh of relief. □

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A fire injector fires on the surface of a semi-conductive material which delivers a heavy, powerful flame that will not blow out at pressures far greater than those created by high-compression engines!

On borderline spark plugs, the air gap is always getting larger—wasting power and gasoline. Your plugs are constantly accumulating filth and carbon because of inefficient ignition.

A fire injector has no air gap to erode away. It will actually outlast your automobile, delivering maximum efficiency without servicing or replacement. There is no wasted gasoline, no loss of power to which you are entitled.

Ordinary spark plugs have to be replaced regularly — or for extra life, you must remove them — clean them — re-gap and then re-install them.

A fire injector is guaranteed for the life of your car — no cleaning, servicing, replacing.

## POSITIVE, SCIENTIFIC PROOF!

When you get your set of Fire Injectors, here is all you do. If you have automatic transmission — make a note of how fast your car crawls forward when it is in the drive position with the motor idling. If you have a sports car, a racing car or a boat — make a note of the tachometer RPMs when idling.

If you have a regular transmission, put your car in low gear on a level road and notice its speed with the motor idling. Next, take any inexpensive spark plug wrench and remove your spark plugs. You'll never need them again! Just screw your fire injectors into the spark plug openings.

## ✓ CHECK THESE DIFFERENCES!

SPARK PLUG

FIRE INJECTOR



- Fires across air gap
- Wire electrode burns away
- Carbon ruins firing tip
- Needs cleaning & setting
- Needs periodic replacing
- Spark blows out under pressure



- NO air gap to erode away
- NO wire electrode
- NO tip deterioration
- NO cleaning or setting
- NO replacing
- NO blowing out even at highest compression

If you have automatic transmission, now put your car in drive and let your engine idle. If your car stood still with spark plugs, it will now move forward at from 4 to 6 miles per hour; that means the amount of gas that just kept your engine turning over will now carry you further — faster — cheaper!

If you have a racing car, sports car or boat, your RPMs will increase up to 200 more at idling, up to 300 more at high speed.

If you have regular transmission, in low gear and with your motor idling, your

car will move forward 4 to 6 miles per hour faster. In other words, no matter what you drive, here is absolute proof that you can go further — go faster — go cheaper when you have proven fire injectors in your car!

## ORDER YOUR FIRE INJECTORS NOW!

You can have your set of Fire Injectors for the year and model of your car for a fraction of their value, and if they do not deliver maximum performance, you get your money back within 30 days, or FREE replacement for as long as you own that car.

**GUARANTEE:** Use your Fire Injectors entirely at our risk — give them every test you can think of — power — economy — starting — smoothness — performance, etc. Then, if you are not completely satisfied at the end of 30 days, simply return them for full refund. We further guarantee Free Replacement of any Fire Injector, regardless of the reason, for as long as you own your car. Every set of Fire Injectors is fully protected by a world-famous insurance company.

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380 Madison Avenue New York, N.Y. 10017

Yes! ... I want to try Fire Injectors at your risk. If, at the end of 30 days I am not completely delighted ... if the Injectors don't do everything you say, I will simply return them for my money back.

- ☐ I enclose the full price ... you pay the postage.
- ☐ Send COD — I will pay postman plus postage and COD charges.

☐ Set(s) of 4 Fire Injectors \$7.90 ☐ Set(s) of 6 Fire Injectors \$11.85 ☐ Set(s) of 8 Fire Injectors \$15.80

Car #1 Make \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ # of Cyls. \_\_\_\_\_

Car #2 Make \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ # of Cyls. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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